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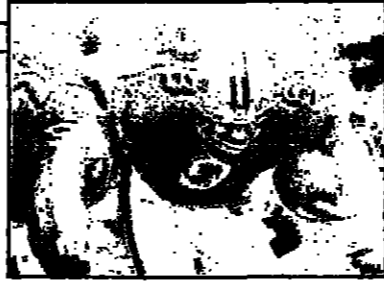
First Israeli McDonald's closes

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Diana's driver said to have been legally drunk

LONDON (Reuters) — Princess Diana's driver in the high-speed crash that killed her should not have been driving, because he was over the legal alcohol limit, the Paris prosecutor's office said yesterday.

The analysis of his blood showed a concentration of alcohol at an illicit level, a statement said.

Buckingham Palace announced that the "people's princess" would be honored at a funeral service on Saturday in Westminster Abbey, the church used for centuries by the monarchy in times of joy and sorrow.

Army Radio reported that Sara Netanyahu may attend. Her body will then be taken to the Spencer family's estate in Althorp, central England, for a private burial.

The doctor who was the first person to attend Diana at the scene of the accident said "she was unconscious ... moaning and gesturing in every direction" and there were many photographers at the scene taking pictures.

The royal family had sought to distance itself from Diana since her acrimonious divorce last year from Prince Charles which left her status ambivalent.

There will be no formal lying in state but flags are being flown at half-mast from yesterday until the day of the funeral. Diana's coffin will be taken by procession through central London to Westminster Abbey on Saturday.

Brushfire tragedy claims fifth soldier

By DAVID RUDGE

Sgt. Shumato Kasahoun, critically injured in the brushfire tragedy in south Lebanon last Thursday, died of his wounds in Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday.

Kasahoun's death brought to five the soldiers killed in the blaze, which followed a clash in which the soldiers shot and killed four gunmen from the Amal Shi'ite movement.

Kasahoun, 21, of Rishon LeZion, is to be buried in the city's military cemetery at 4 p.m. today.

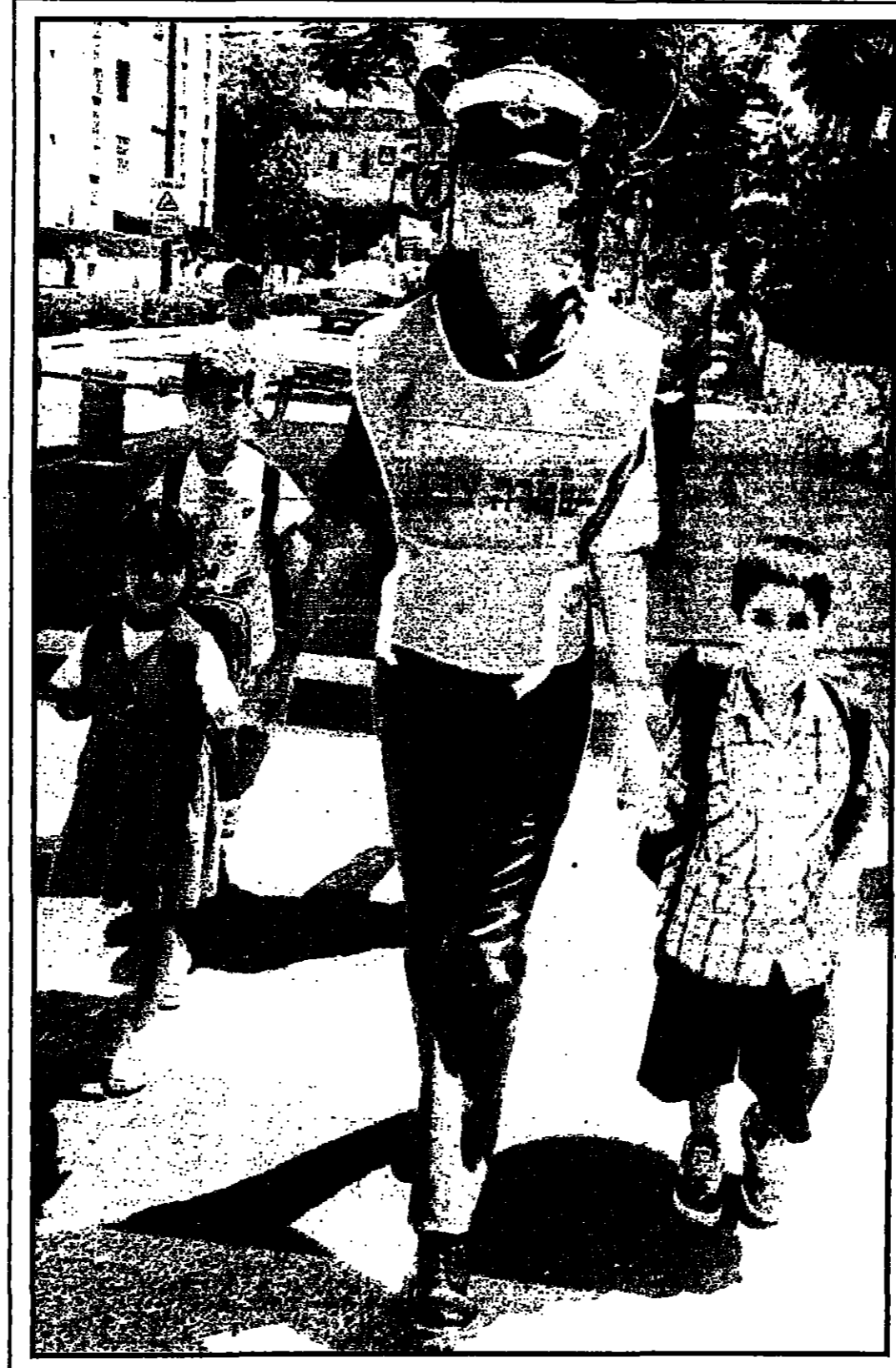
The IDF board of inquiry, headed by Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, is continuing its investigation into the incident.

IDF to allow in 4,000 Palestinian workers

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The IDF eased a month-long closure in the West Bank and Gaza yesterday, and said the further easing of restrictions would be based on daily security assessments of the situation.

The announcement appears to be geared at improving relations with the Palestinians before the arrival of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright next week.



Marching off to school
A military policewoman helps two children cross the street on their way to their first day of school in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Israel team leaves for Washington to prepare for Albright visit

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Israeli officials leave for the US today to prepare for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit next week.

The delegation is led by cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and includes the prime minister's policy adviser, Uzi Arad, and the head of Foreign Minister David Levy's bureau, Yitval Rotem.

American diplomacy if she could arrange terms for a lifting of the closure. The release of tax revenues withheld by Israel from the Palestinian Authority since the market attack could also be a promising issue for the secretary of state.

PM asked to seek US help for Azzam

By DAVID RUDGE, JAY BUSHINSKY and SARAH HONG

The family of Azzam Azzam is pressing Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to raise his case with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright when she visits next week.

Azzam was convicted by an Egyptian security court Sunday of spying for Israel and was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment with hard labor.

Villagers shocked by verdict, Page 4

The verdict has shocked the close-knit Druse community in Israel and residents of his home village in the Galilee.

However, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky defined Azzam as "a fighter who was taken into captivity," and stressed that Israel does not leave its wounded behind.

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NEWS

in brief

Syria may let rabbis visit ancestral graves

The Damascus government is considering giving permits to rabbis from the noted Abuhatzera family to visit ancestors' graves in Syria...

Boy killed in road accident

Four-year-old Yizhak Efraim of Moshav Bitna in the Negev was killed in a road accident yesterday at the entrance to Moshav Brosh...

Workers to demonstrate at road junctions

The Histadrut announced yesterday that thousands of workers would deploy today at central intersections throughout the country to protest against Treasury policy...

While the Treasury accused the labor federation of negotiating in bad faith, trade union head Shlomo Shani termed the talks with the Finance Ministry disappointing...

Today marks the end of a legal cooling-off period after unions declared a work dispute in protest against government plans for privatization.

Palestinians stone IDF troops in Gaza

Stones were reportedly thrown at Israeli soldiers twice yesterday in the Gaza Strip, in one case smashing the windshield of an IDF patrol jeep...

Soldiers serving in Gaza will be treated today to an annual sports day in the Ashkeluna Park, the spokesman said. Prizes and trophies will be awarded to winners of the day's sporting events...

Palestinian Police rounds up car thieves

The Palestinian Police said yesterday that it has arrested more than 100 Palestinians from the Hebron area involved in stealing Israeli cars...

Police uncover Jewish-Arab credit card ring

A group of Palestinians and Jewish settlers in the West Bank worked a credit card scam in which hundreds of thousands of dollars were charged to stolen cards...

The gang, led by Wael Assaf, 37, from Bidya, bought credit cards from down-and-out tourists and then ran up charges before the tourists reported them lost or stolen...

Police ex-superintendent indicted for bribery

Retired police superintendent Avi Dotan and police officer Haim Pinhas were charged in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday with accepting bribes from an Israeli-Belgian diamond trader...

Palestinians protest over Jordan Valley farm ownership

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

IDF soldiers and police forced scores of Palestinians to leave the Yugoslavian Experimental Farm in the Jordan Valley yesterday morning...

According to Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan approximately 100 Palestinians showed up at the 380 dunam plot yesterday morning and refused to leave...

Ten Palestinians were arrested after they ignored security forces' requests to leave the site. Sivan said the 10 were taken to Ma'aleh Ephraim police station...

Jordan Valley spokeswoman Tami Atiya praised the security forces whom she said arrived at the site shortly after settlers notified them...

Atiya added that security forces kept on preventing violence talked to the group of protesting Palestinians for a few hours and asked them to leave...

Atiya said that the PA Minister of Agricultural Affairs Abdel Jawad Saleh was among the protesters...

The majority of the Palestinians left at the security forces' request she said, some gathered at the nearby village of Qudja. Saleh however said Atiya remained at the edge of the plot until late afternoon when he left...

"It is clear that the Palestinians who demanded that the plot be turned over to them received orders from high up as the demonstration was organized," said Atiya...

Settlers from Moshav Masua who work and plough the plot routinely remained at the site and continued working despite the protesters' presence...



Border police hit and grab at a Palestinian protester by the Yugoslavian Farm near Jericho which Palestinians claim is theirs, but Israel says is part of Moshav Masua.

continued working despite the protesters' presence she said. The site has been the scene of several clashes in the past, the most recent being six months ago...

Human rights activists said he has been able to receive visits from his wife but not from his attorney, Raji Sourani...

must be handed over to them. However, Israel has stated that the area ceased to be an experimental farm in 1988 when it was turned over to the World Zionist Organization's settlement division...

turned over to the World Zionist Organization's settlement division and in 1994 became a part of Moshav Masua.

PA to try professor next week in Gaza

By STEVE RODAN

A Palestinian lecturer detained for nearly two months is set to go on trial next week in the Gaza Strip, a human rights activist said yesterday...

Fathi Subuh, arrested July 2 and held in several prisons since, is scheduled to appear at the Gaza court on September 9, said Bassem Eid, executive director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group...

Eid said Subuh was interrogated for 40 days at Tel al-Hawa interrogation center of the Palestinian Authority's Preventive Security Apparatus...

Human rights activists said he has been able to receive visits from his wife but not from his attorney, Raji Sourani...

The most amazing thing about this case is that none of his Palestinian colleagues has come to his aid, Eid said. "None of the professors at Al-Azhar said anything or signed anything. Neither have any of his students..."

Amnesty International has termed Subuh a prisoner of conscience and has called for his immediate and unconditional release...

Subuh, a 43-year-old education professor at Gaza's Al-Azhar University, was arrested days asking students on an exam for their view of alleged PA corruption...

Palestinian security authorities have refused to respond to a High Court order to explain Subuh's detention. The professor has not been charged although Eid said he was questioned on his contacts with Israelis, Americans and Russians...

Subuh responded with a hunger strike, which lasted until he was moved from the PPS detention center to Gaza Central Prison...

renew his hunger strike if he is not released. A PA aide said efforts have been made by some officials to win Subuh's release...

Rashid Abu Shback, a PPS official, said that Subuh was suspected of being a collaborator with Israel...

But Abu Shback denied the assertion of human rights activists that PPS interrogators tried to frame Subuh on charges of sexually harassing a female student...

However, there are certain legal precedents where such agreements have not been kept because they were made under extreme duress...

Arbel noted that army discipline would also play a part in the decision to indict and added that the army's integrity was another factor...

Settlement leaders worry US pressure could limit construction

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza voiced concern yesterday about reports that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was considering US demands to get peace talks back on track by limiting settlement housing construction...

Council leaders said they would convene in emergency session early next week to discuss the issue.

Yehudit Tayar, the Council spokeswoman, said settler leaders were confident Netanyahu wouldn't bow to American demands and that he would stick to his policy of continuing Jewish settlement...

She accused the Palestinians of putting obstacles to peace talks, by failing to carry out promises to fight terrorism...

"The real issue is whether the Palestinian Authority and Yasser Arafat intend to comply by the Oslo Agreement and prevent further terrorist attacks," Tayar said...

"It would be foolish of the government to accede to the Palestinians when the basis of the agreement is not being upheld..."

The report in yesterday's Haaretz claimed that diplomatic sources in Washington were planning to renew demands on Israel to limit settlement growth based on a principle of "contiguity" of housing to existing units...

Council Chairman Pinhas Wallerstein reportedly charged that if there was any truth to such reports, Netanyahu would no longer be prime minister...

Tayar dismissed the remarks, saying council members were confident that Netanyahu would stand by his convictions...

Netanyahu's policy adviser David Bar-Ilan refused to comment on the report, stressing that no progress could be made on any issue until the Palestinians combat terrorism...

Bereaved parents debate: Should they have to sign combat duty consent forms?

By LIAT COLLINS

Should a mother who has lost a child or husband in active duty be required to decide whether to allow her other children to serve in a combat unit?

The question has again been put on the agenda in the wake of the death of 19-year-old Sgt. Oshri Schwartz last Thursday in the brushfire in south Lebanon...

Schwartz's mother lost her first husband in the Yom Kippur War. In addition, his father was wounded by a firebomb during the intifada...

Relatives say that Schwartz apparently threatened to leave home to persuade his mother to sign a consent form so he could join the Golani Brigade...

Na'amat head Ofra Freedman said yesterday it was unfair to place the decision in the hands of bereaved parents. She pro-

posed that the defense establishment decide whether a soldier from a bereaved family should serve in a combat unit, by drawing up its own "family profile" of the recruit...

She said she would put the proposal before Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee...

Schwartz's sister, Caroline David, recalled yesterday how her brother had always wanted to be a Golani soldier. He persuaded his mother to give her consent despite her pleas that she had sacrificed enough, David said...

"She'll never forgive herself for signing," said David. "I only ask: Don't make other mothers go through this. It's not fair..."

David was interviewed on Israel Radio by Dalia Ya'iri, who lost her husband, Col. Uzi Ya'iri, in the 1975 hostage res-

cue at the Savoy Hotel. He was a commander of the raid in which 11 people died...

Ya'iri recalled how she was also put in the position of having to decide whether to let her sons serve in combat units, and that the psychological pressure was unbearable. Ya'iri also noted how ironically, other recruits were free to volunteer for pilot training and other dangerous jobs without parental permission...

Col. (res.) Chico Oren, head of the Defense Ministry's rehabilitation branch, called the issue a "most painful dilemma." But he objected to leaving the decision in the army's hands, arguing that each family and recruit is a unique case...

"The IDF has tried to cope with this question over the years with the utmost humanity and to find the difficult balance between not standing in the way of aspirations of young recruits and trying to prevent families from suffering a second tragedy," he said...

Oren said the proposal was worth considering, but added, "It will not solve the basic terrible dilemma..."

of aspirations of young recruits and trying to prevent families from suffering a second tragedy," he said...

He suggested either adopting a policy of placing members of bereaved families only in rear guard units where no frontline duty was possible, or taking the decision out of parents' hands and letting recruits decide for themselves where to serve...

But Oren said that the second option seemed "completely inhumane as far as the parents are concerned. They must have the last word..."

Ya'iri suggested that instead of putting pressure on parents to sign a consent form they be asked only to sign a form if they oppose having their sons placed in a combat unit...

Oren said the proposal was worth considering, but added, "It will not solve the basic terrible dilemma..."

Decision on jail riot indictments today

By BATSHEVA TSUR

IDF Judge-Advocate General Uri Shoham is due to decide today whether to indict the soldiers involved in the Military Prison No. 6 riot last month...

The decision hinges on whether the army should honor a pledge made under duress to protect the lives of hostages...

After meeting with Shoham and senior army officers last night, State Attorney Edna Arbel indicated that the two had not reached agreement...

Arbel said that the decision to press charges would have to be made by Shoham, bearing in mind the army's point of view...

In a statement released after a lengthy meeting - the second between the two devoted to the issue - Arbel added that it was clear, in principle, that agreements had to be upheld, particularly those made by public authorities...

However, there are certain legal precedents where such agreements have not been kept because they were made under extreme duress, she noted...

"It is clear that the promise made in the agreement according to which the prisoners would not be charged for their part in the event, was given in order to ensure the safety and lives of the wardens and prisoners," she noted...

"This agreement was made under duress. All the relevant factors must be considered," she said...

Arbel noted that army discipline would also play a part in the decision to indict and added that the army's integrity was another factor...

She pointed out, however, that any decision which the IDF judge-advocate took could later be defended in court...

DEATH OF DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

Following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, condolence books have been opened at the British Embassy, 192 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv, and at the British Consulate General, 19 Nashashibi Street, Jerusalem, for members of the public. The books will remain open in the public areas of the Embassy and the Consulate up to and including September 3...

LILY SANDER

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dearest LILY SANDER of London. Mourned by her brothers and children, Prof. Fred, Jonathan and Michael Wolf, Geraldine Frankel and Judy Cohen, Alan, David and Julian Sander, Grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Shiva at Wolf Family, 7 Rehov Dan, Baka, Jerusalem 02-672-2486

AZZAM

Continued from Page 1

He said the Egyptians took an innocent man who had not done a thing against Egypt and put him in jail...

"I know, because I can vouch as I did to President [Hosni] Mubarak that this man did not work for one second, not for one hour, not for one minute, not for one second or perform any service for the Israeli intelligence community..."

Netanyahu quoted Mubarak as saying he was sorry that the Egyptian judicial system found Azzam guilty. But the prime minister wouldn't comment further about their conversation...

"The court was politicized and the verdict was unjust," Netanyahu said...

The prime minister also said that the Azzam case "does not con-

tribute to Egyptian-Israeli relations," contending that this is the case of a man "who is undergoing indescribable suffering for what he did not do..."

Sharansky told Azzam's family that he identifies personally with his plight. "I was reminded how I stood in a courtroom and looked for someone who would support me," Sharansky said, recalling his nine-year ordeal as a Prisoner of Zion in the former Soviet Union...

"Azzam's strength is in the feeling that he is not alone, that his wife, family and country are behind him," Sharansky went on...

He described Azzam as "a fighter who was taken into captivity" and contended that Israel does not leave its wounded behind. The minister said he has urged members of the international business community who deal with Egypt to press for Azzam's release...

President Ezer Weizman yesterday described Azzam's conviction as "a crooked verdict. Something is very wrong with this verdict..."

Weizman promised to take the matter up with Mubarak, with whom Weizman is known to be on better terms than most Israeli politicians...

Weizman said he would phone Mubarak to tell him that "a terrible injustice has been wrought. It is quite clear that the man is totally innocent. No intelligence organization in Israel knows him or about him - not the General Security Service, military intelligence or anyone. The Egyptians know this full well..."

Labor MK Sallah Tarif is meanwhile collecting the 30 signatures needed to call the Knesset into special session during its recess to take up what he called "this government's incompetent handling of the Azzam case..."

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DRIVE CAREFULLY

School starts smoothly despite isolated strikes

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and news agencies

It was back to reading, writing and arithmetic for the nation's 1,792,000 school pupils yesterday, as classes opened in what Education Ministry officials described as a "very quiet" atmosphere.

Only a small number of incidents were reported, including the torching of a kindergarten in Mevasseret Zion (see separate story) and isolated strikes in several communities. However, schools in the Arab sector were closed for the first day of a planned three-day strike to protest the lack of proper educational facilities there.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said the strike was justified because the Arab pupils were victims of discrimination. Sarid dismissed charges by Knesset Education Committee Chairman Emanuel Zissmann that the strike was for reasons having nothing to do with

education, adding that while the past government had done a great deal for education in the Arab sector, this government had renewed discrimination.

For the first time, the opening of school was marked by the flying of the Israeli flag outside the institutions, and ceremonies introducing this new feature were held at several schools, with the participation of the president, the prime minister, and other ministers.

Even the First First-Grader, Yair Netanyahu, got into the act, making his way to the Paula Ben-Gurion Elementary school in Jerusalem's Rehavia neighborhood despite the presence of camera crews and photographers.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had suggested on Army Radio that the photographers "leave your cameras at home," but few obeyed the suggestion. However, Netanyahu, his wife Sarah and Yair — ringed by more than a dozen security guards — gave the photo-

graphers the slip by entering via a back door and successfully evaded most of them.

"Whoever thinks we can dispense with roots in the modern world is wrong," said Netanyahu, opening the school year at the First school in Beit Shemesh, which had been attended by seven girls gunned down by a Jordanian soldier on a school trip earlier this year to Naharayim. "We must find our identity," he said, and stressed the need for emphasizing Israel's heritage.

Keren Avni, one of the survivors of the attack, said at the end of the ceremony that it was very difficult to concentrate knowing her friends were not there.

While some disputes were settled prior to the opening of school, others were not. Ashdod municipality officials withdrew plans to create three separate classes for talented immigrant pupils, and a strike of a local high school there was averted. But in Acre, classes were closed by municipal and local residents' representatives, leaving 13,000 pupils at

home, except for those in special education. The strike was a protest over the government's failure to transfer NIS 8 million to the municipality for education.

In Herzliya, only 11 of 26 schools opened, with parents split over whether to support a parents' group dispute with the municipality over funding of schools.

In Rehovot, the parents' association at the Hadarim elementary school launched a strike, claiming that the municipality had put 40 percent of the Ethiopian immigrant children in the school, essentially creating a separate school for the Ethiopian community. The parents want the Ethiopian pupils distributed throughout the city's school system.

Parents in several moshavim in the Jerusalem corridor decided Sunday night not to send their children in junior high and 10th grade to school. Parents are protesting the fact that the old headmistress was not relieved of her duties as

guaranteed by the Mateh Yehuda regional council. In addition, 120 pupils from Kiryat Yearim were added to ninth and tenth grade classes without parents being informed. Parents are asking that the regional council open up registration in other schools in Jerusalem.

While few incidents were reported, National Parents Association chairman Shai Lachman said that the matter of various enrichment programs for the schools had not been settled by agreements reached with the teachers union, and that the association would carefully monitor how the classroom hours are returned to the system, as promised.

"This is a matter of credibility at the highest level," Lachman said, "and if promises are broken, we will not hesitate to take whatever action is necessary, including striking the schools."

Among the ministers touring schools yesterday was Science Minister Michael Eitan, who said the educational system "has failed" to implement information

technology in the schools. On a tour of the Galili School in Kfar Sava, Eitan said that most schools lack computer networks, thus pupils are unable to go into international databases for information that is increasingly being used abroad.

Meanwhile, on a tour of schools in the Jerusalem area, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza said he was pleased that despite limited time for preparation, his ministry had "successfully met the challenge" of taking over supervision of school medical services" from the local authorities.

Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein told pupils in the Kiryat Gat comprehensive high school that "my hope is that just as in past years it was the custom not to touch the defense budget, in the coming years, it will be clear that we don't touch the budget for education, welfare and immigrant absorption."

Judy Siegel and Margot Dukkevitch contributed to this report.

Arsonists destroy Reform kindergarten

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Forty-one toddlers affiliated with the local Reform congregation in Mevasseret Zion got a lesson in intolerance yesterday morning, after discovering their school was torched overnight.

The fire forced the youngsters to start the first day of school in temporary quarters.

"We got here at 7:20 this morning to welcome the children. I opened the door and I saw black, because everything was black: the ceiling, the walls, the floor. Everything was charred. We called the police and a fire inspector arrived who ruled the fire arson," said Aliza Landau, the kindergarten's educational director.

"We didn't have any threats of any kind," Landau said. However, she noted that about a year ago, when the local Reform congregation, Kehillat Mevasseret Zion, sought a plot of land to build on, "There was some loud opposition from some religious residents, particularly those from Shas. They cursed us and yelled at us that we weren't Jews," she said.

No group took responsibility for the blaze at the Kamatz kindergarten on Rehov Habazav (Kamatatz is an abbreviation of Kehillat Mevasseret Zion).

"Not even in my wildest dreams would I have thought that such a thing could happen," Landau said. "I can't understand how anyone could hurt three and four-year-olds like this. In the end we're not on strike, but a fire forced the closure of the building."

The kindergarten that was torched, which was to begin its third year, is named after Rachel Shami Munk, a kindergarten teacher and former Mevasseret resident who was killed last July by terrorists along with her husband, Ze'ev, and father-in-law, Uri, in a drive-by shooting near Beit Shemesh.

However, despite the fact that the fire destroyed most of the wall containing a tribute to her memory, "Rachel's picture wasn't touched. The whole wall is burned, but the picture of her and the children was untouched," said Landau. "And I promise her that this kindergarten will reopen and continue functioning."

Kehillat Mevasseret Zion's Rabbi Maya Leibovich said yesterday, "There's discomfort among certain elements in the community over the fact that there is a Reform congregation. There's a bit of jealousy over the fact that we've established such a successful kindergarten here. Apparently the people who decided to try to put a stop to



Zobar Dardik, three (left), and Nir Liron, four, look at their burned out classroom in the kindergarten of the Movement for Progressive Judaism (Reform) in Mevasseret Zion, which arsonists left them on the first day of school. (Arieh Jeruzolimski)

it only want one type of religious education here.

"We can only hope that local officials will defend the idea of pluralism in our community," she said. "They should make themselves heard about someone who dares to pour flammable material into a kindergarten on the eve of the opening of school."

Local council head Eli Mouyal said in response: "We take a very grave view of the torching of the kindergarten by unknown elements. For the past six years, the education system has operated very peacefully. The matter is being investigated by the police, who must bring those responsible to trial immediately, and draw the

proper conclusions."

Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Center, said yesterday: "We can't lose sight of the fact that this isn't an isolated local incident of violence against Reform Jews, but unfortunately has to be seen in light of hate speeches that were made against us by national religious leaders."

"On Sunday, Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau equated Reform Jewry with the suicidal Jihad terrorists. Recently, both Rabbi Aryeh Gamiel and Rabbi Moshe Gafni equated Reform Jewry with Hamas," he said. "It's painful to realize, with the memory of Rabin's assassination, that leaders are not aware of

the horrendous consequences of such hate speeches. We call upon them with the coming High Holy Days, to reconsider their role and responsibility for what has transpired last night and what may yet happen if they do not understand the need for mutual respect rather than Jewish civil war."

Mevasseret Zion officials were reportedly trying to find an alternative site for the kindergarten until repairs can be made. The youngsters spent yesterday at the home of one of the children, and Landau and Leibovich vowed to reopen soon. "It won't help anyone trying to close the kindergarten down," said Landau, "you can't burn hearts."

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Trying to unite 'church' and state in the schools

Flags were supposed to be flying yesterday at schools across the land, after the Knesset in July passed a law ordering the national banner flown at all national institutions and schools. The flag, as a symbol, is an attempt to bring the state into the schools, even the non-Zionistic haredi and Arab schools. It is the classic separation-of-church-and-state-in-the-schools debate, but in reverse. While in some countries, most notably the US, the fight has always been to keep prayer — the church — out of the publicly funded schools, here an effort is actually needed to get the state in.

Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer acknowledged the Herculean nature of the task, when he said yesterday on the education minister's traditional first-day-of-school swing through Jerusalem schools, that he is against trying to strictly enforce the law. Instead, he said, the schools should, through education and explanation, be persuaded to fly the flag.

Daniel Sperber, a Bar-Ilan University Talmud professor and chairman of the Committee on National Religious Education in the Education Ministry, intimated that, at least in the haredi schools, this is not going to be an easy task. "Civics is something that plays a small part in their educational ideology," Sperber said. "Many of the schools are not Zionist, and the status of the state is not important to them. Even other things they

are obligated to do, such as give physical education classes, they often don't do. These [haredi] schools are given a great deal of independence, and are not closely monitored."

While the state plays no role in the ideology taught at the haredi schools, Sperber said that in the state-religious schools the state is presented as a "positive value, almost of a mystical nature. They see the state as part of a messianic trend. In these schools civics — in the form of understanding Zionism, and understanding religious Zionism — is an integral part of education."

But what of democracy? "When they teach democracy, they teach it using rabbinic sources," Sperber said.

"Not enough," reply critics, quick to point out that Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, was a product of the religious school system. They say that something needs to be done to teach democracy and tolerance differently. The new Authority for Values Education, set up amid much controversy earlier this year, is aiming to do just that, Sperber said.

The authority has incorporated under one roof both the Unit for Education Towards Democracy and Coexistence, and the Unit for Deepening Jewish Studies. While critics see the authority, headed by Mordechai Lipshitz, a former head of Bnei Akiva, as a subterfuge with which to introduce more Judaism into the secular schools, Sperber said it is really aimed at bringing more sec-

ular democratic values of tolerance into the whole school system, primarily the religious school stream.

"Many questions were raised after Amir," said Sperber. "It was realized that there is a need to educate toward values, and not only impart information."

The flip side to trying to get the state into haredi schools is the question of what place religion has in the secular schools. The Bible is taught in the secular schools, and remains one of the courses for which there are matriculation exams.

Beyond this, said Sperber, who was one of the founders of Beit Morasha, a Jerusalem institute that trains header yeshiva graduates to teach religious subjects in secular schools, "religion is taught in a secular vein. They teach some sources, some rabbinic literature, the holidays, some customs; it is not necessarily taught as a part of the student's life. It is taught to the student as an outsider viewing it, as ethnography or folklore."

Sperber said that the highly publicized increase in interest among secular Israeli adults in Jewish studies — taught from an academic rather than religious angle — has not trickled down to the secular high school student.

"I have a feeling that [interest in these courses] is a reaction to a lack of emphasis on Jewish subjects in school," Sperber said. "People are showing an interest after the army, because they didn't get it while in school."

Ethiopian girls to help needy families from same background

Young women immigrants from Ethiopia doing national service are to help needy Ethiopian families cope with their situation and integrate into the educational system, the Bat-Ami organization, which organizes programs for observant girls doing national services, announced yesterday.

The project will begin with 10 Ethiopian families in the south, and is being carried out with the help of the Joint Distribution Committee and the Organization

for the Advancement of the Family and the Child in the Israeli Ethiopian Community.

The girls are to help the families each day for three hours in their homes, and will work in schools, kindergartens, nurseries and community centers the rest of the time. The girls will also meet once a week to discuss their experiences, and the sponsoring organizations will monitor their progress.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW BY ORLI AHARONI

US State Department spokesman James Rubin's comment that Madeleine Albright is not a magician — referring to her upcoming visit to the Middle East — attracted media speculation regarding the potential success of her planned visit.

Uzi Benziman of *Ha'aretz* claims that the statement reduces expectations and serves as Albright's alibi in case of failure. The Israelis and Palestinians are still suspicious of one another and the anticipation that Albright will bring the magical cycle to an end is slim, he asserts. "Israeli-Palestinian relations are not ripe for an imposed American mediation," Benziman writes.

Moshe Zak claims in *Ma'ariv* that the success of the visit depends on the secretary of state's ability to reject the opposition's suggestions to extort Israel for more concessions. The opposition "seeks to draw her into a conflict with the Netanyahu government to force her [to act] against government policy," Zak writes.

Akiva Eldor of *Ha'aretz* states that, according to the *New York Times*, some progress has been noted in Syria's intentions. This may be a result of Netanyahu's new catchphrase, "territories for security" instead of "territories for peace."

Ma'ariv's Dov Goldstein writes that, according to Yossi Beilin, one

of the reasons that Assad rejected Rabin's proposal for a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights is because Assad fears peace.

"Assad was afraid that peace with Israel would open Syria to the dangerous ideas of democracy and freedom and might jeopardize his tyranny," he writes.

Goldstein adds that if Assad wants peace, he will find a compatible partner in Netanyahu, but if Beilin is right, Assad will also miss this opportunity.

Shamir's omen

Yitzhak Shamir's performance on Channel 2 news on Friday night for the promotion of his new book provoked media rage, after the former prime minister stated that people are at their best and reveal their most noble traits in times of war.

Gideon Samet of *Ha'aretz* compares Shamir to the fascist Mussolini. "Shamir thinks that only a military awakening will obliterate the disgrace of the arrangements with the Arabs, i.e., better the blood of victims and grief of families than the catastrophe of the agreements," writes Samet.

Following last week's tragic brushfire in Lebanon that claimed four soldiers, Mati Golan of *Yediot Aharonot* states that Shamir's assumption that Israelis will have to live in a state of war for many years

to come is unrealistic.

"This option does not exist, because no nation would be able to stand it anymore," Golan writes.

Press under attack

Yediot Aharonot's Yaron London was one of the many writers who wrote about Princess Diana's tragic death, stating that the Hebrew press differs from the British tabloids only because it has a different set of priorities. A few days ago, Hebrew newspapers used clichés in covering the death of the soldiers killed in the brushfire, while the TV cameras focused on the grieving families.

"This, too, is pomography, and if we were not destined to suffer daily the mourning of our dead children, some of our papers would be similar to the British tabloids," states London.

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid writes that perhaps after this tragedy Britain and France will pass a law that will protect public figures from the penetrating camera.

Egypt unjust

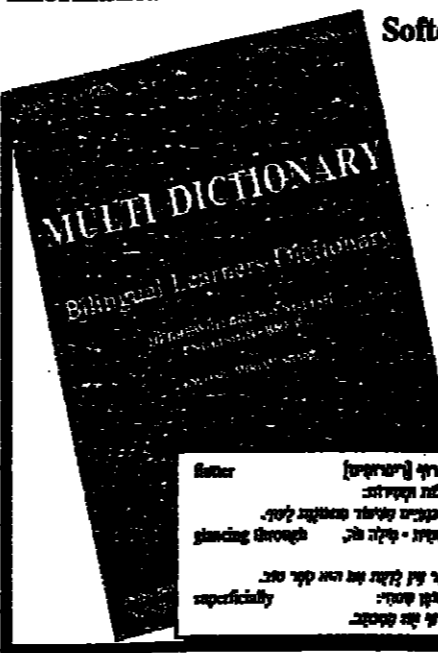
Lapid also writes that the 15-year sentence that an Egyptian court imposed on Azzam Azzam Sunday is a political act and has nothing to do with justice.

On the eve of Albright's visit to the Middle East, it is an impudent provocation that will bring Israel-Egyptian relations to a new low.

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Neighbors shocked by Azzam verdict

Mughar village residents equate trial to 'Dreyfus Affair'

By DAVID RUDGE



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meets with the children of Azzam Azzam, sentenced Sunday to 15 years by an Egyptian court for spying for Israel.

NEWS

in brief

Deri trial resumes

Shas MK Aryeh Deri's fraud trial resumed yesterday in Jerusalem District Court, with testimony by Rabbi Aryeh Weinberg, one of Deri's co-defendants. The trial now enters its fourth year, and estimates are it will require the better part of a year to complete. *Itim*

Court extends remand on Meshulam followers

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday ordered three alleged followers of Uzi Meshulam held until trial on charges of disrupting traffic lights at three intersections of the Geva Road on August 13. Sinai Hassan and two minors used a sharp object to break the covers of traffic light monitors at the Kfar Hayarok, Morasha and Bar Ilan intersections. Then they struck the mechanism with a heavy object, incurring tens of thousands of shekels worth of damage, an indictment says. The three claimed that their intention was to draw attention to Meshulam's movement and the issue of missing Yemenite children. *Itim*

Residents of Azzam Azzam's home village of Mughar in the Galilee were still in a state of shock yesterday over the guilty verdict handed down Sunday by the Egyptian court on the Israeli Druse.

"It's the equivalent of the Dreyfus trial in the context of the Middle East," said Sayeed Gha'im, a resident of Mughar and a friend of the Azzam family. "Dreyfus was as innocent as Azzam, but he was convicted and sentenced nonetheless."

"Azzam committed no crime; he was not involved in spying. He didn't do anything. We all know Azzam. He is the victim of a libel," said Gha'im.

A steady stream of people continued to visit the Azzam family's home, the women going to offer comfort and support to Azzam's wife and their four children and the men sitting in the house.

Azzam was sentenced by the State Security Court in Cairo on Sunday to 15 years' imprisonment at hard labor. His family and friends had expected the court to find him innocent and release him, despite all indications to the contrary.

Their hopes and expectations were dashed as the verdict was announced and since then concern has been growing about whether Azzam will manage to survive the hard conditions and the potential anger of other prisoners in the Egyptian jail.

"We [Druse] are a small people in this world, but we have never raised our hands in surrender to any regime and we won't to the Egyptians. We believe in the power of justice, which is the biggest and most important weapon we have," said Gha'im.

"What worries us is the suffering Azzam might be going through. A sentence of 15 years in jail with hard labor is a sentence to hell. There has to be a race against the clock now to secure his release, otherwise there is the risk that he might commit suicide or die of suffering."

"He is an Israeli and a Druse, and he will have to try and survive among the other prisoners - criminals and political prisoners

jailed for opposition to the Egyptian regime - none of whom have any love for Israel or the Druse. Therefore we are calling on the Egyptian authorities to separate him from the other prisoners until a solution is reached, because otherwise his life will be in danger."

Izot Katish, another visitor to the Azzam family home, interrupted from the opposite side of the room. "We hold the Egyptian authorities responsible for Azzam's safety and wellbeing," said Katish, a teacher at the high school in the village, which overlooks the Netufa Valley.

"I taught Azzam from seventh to ninth grade and I am also a

close friend of the family. I feel terrible for several reasons - one that he is a straightforward person who I'm certain from knowing him and the family has no connection whatsoever in spying, not with the Mossad nor the GSS.

"He went there [to Egypt] to earn a living for himself and his family and that is not a crime. It's terrible that an innocent person should be arrested for what we feel were political reasons and he has to suffer because of a political rift between Israel and the Arab world.

"All he did was to work as a machine technician at an

[Egypt and Israel]," said Katish. Druse council heads also visited the village yesterday in a show of solidarity with the Azzam family. Mughar local council head Assad Areideh said they had agreed to use all means at their disposal to press the government to do everything possible to secure the release and safe return of Azzam.

"All that matters is Azzam's return to his home and his family," said his brother, Fandi. "His wife is sick with worry and is not able to eat or sleep properly and the children didn't go to school today. We don't want words or promises or anything else - just to see Azzam back home."

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Where to visit in Israel

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Reunited Yemenites cancel repeat DNA test

By BATSHEVA TSURI

The repeat DNA test on Tsila Levine and members of the Omessi family, due to have been held today, has been cancelled at the request of the family.

The story of Levine's meeting with the Omessi family - believed to have been her biological family from whom she was separated more than 45 years ago - captured the heart of the nation last week. A DNA test had proven the biological connection between them and it was believed that Levine was one of the missing Yemenite children - whose fate is the subject of a state inquiry - who had been handed over for adoption at the beginning of statehood.

But when the family appeared before the inquiry later in the week, discrepancies appeared between the dates on the documents believed to relate to the case. In order to clarify doubts, the commission requested that another DNA test be held. It was scheduled for today at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem.

The Omessi family, Levine, and lawyer Rami Tsuberi, who is representing them, agreed. But Tsuberi posed a number of conditions, most of which were met by the commission, the Justice Ministry said in a statement last night. The commission agreed to allow Dr. Hassan Habib, who performed the original test, to be present today, accepted a list of genetic markings to be studied, and agreed to complete privacy, the statement said.

Tsuberi, the statement continued, demanded that only he should receive the results and that he would then give the commission - which had requested the test - a photocopy. The commission agreed that the attorney should get the results 48 hours in advance, but demanded that it then be given the original results from the hospital.

Tsuberi said last night that, if he were not the one to provide the results, the family would oppose the test. The repeat test was therefore cancelled, the statement said.

Cairo court rejects \$10 billion sacrilege suit against PM

CAIRO (AP) - An Egyptian court yesterday threw out a \$10 billion suit against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for a cartoon that portrayed Islam's Prophet Mohammed as a pig.

But the court said an Egyptian religious authority was entitled to sue Israel for what was "a great offense to Islam." Judge Mahmoud Abdullah said the plaintiff, Mustafa Ashoub, had no legal standing in the matter.

Ashoub, an Egyptian lawyer with a history of launching suits in the name of Egypt or Islam, had claimed \$10 billion in compensation from Netanyahu after an art school dropout, associated with the outlawed Kach group, posted cartoons depicting the prophet as a pig on Arab shops in Hebron in June.

The cartoon provoked an outcry in the Muslim world, with demonstrations in several cities. The Israeli government apologized for the incident.

Ashoub told the court that Netanyahu, as prime minister, was responsible for the actions of the cartoonist, Tatiana Susskin, who is facing trial in Israel on Sept. 10 for inciting racism, insulting Islam and supporting an extremist group.

The court "rejects and condemns

NEWSLINE

With Dr. Yoram Meital

Dr. Yoram Meital is a lecturer in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Ben-Gurion University.

What are the chances for a pardon?

A pardon would require the president's signature. I am not optimistic about the chances for a pardon. However, it should be noted that the judges differentiated between Azzam Azzam's sentence and the other suspects. While the other three received life imprisonment, Azzam received only 15 years.

I imagine that once Azzam has served part of his sentence, there would be a better chance for a prisoner exchange. After all, Israel also has prisoners found guilty of endangering Israeli security in the service of Egyptian intelligence.

Did the political relationship between the two countries have an effect on the decision?

It is clear that during the last year this relationship deteriorated, characterized by misunderstandings which basically evolved from differing perspectives on the peace process.

I think that this atmosphere probably affected the atmosphere in Egypt regarding the trial of Azzam Azzam. However, I'm not sure that we can point our finger and say that this negative atmosphere influenced the court ruling.

Will the decision affect future business ties between the two countries?

Economic cooperation between Israelis and Egyptians depends heavily on trends in the political process. This dependence permanently affected firms and persons in Israel and Egypt who tried since the end of the 1970's to establish economic cooperation.

This atmosphere plus the Azzam trial and sentence could not be seen as an encouraging development to anyone interested in working or developing economic cooperation between Egypt and Israel.

I'm not sure that the trial will change these trends dramatically. However, this isn't an encouraging factor to anyone seeking

cooperation or work in Egypt. How does the appeal process work in Egypt?

If someone wants to appeal, he has to address the president's office and the president has the authority to intervene in the legal process. It is hard for me to see President Mubarak approving Azzam's pardon or early release due to the interest it generated throughout the country, because of the fact that everyone has had something to say about the Azzam trial in the past year. Parties took a stance on this.

Many sentenced Azzam before the courts did. Will and should Israel put pressure on Egypt to release Azzam?

Israel needs to be careful not to use an aggressive tone. This will not help at all or be in Azzam's best interest. Did anyone in Egypt defend Azzam?

Supporters of the peace camp said they trusted the court and they believe that a political atmosphere will not affect the judge's decision. They said that this is not a political affair. Give a chance to the court to decide. However, many in Egypt connected the Azzam affair with what they perceived as continuous efforts by Israel to spy in Egypt despite the treaty between the two states.

Did Azzam receive a fair trial?

From our perspective, the Egyptians really try to create the impression that Azzam got a fair trial. Of course, they didn't drag out the process and try to investigate it intensively. The court was summoned almost every day and worked for many hours. It didn't use any tactics to try to stop the defense.

What should Azzam expect as an Israeli Arab in an Egyptian prison?

I assume that Azzam would be kept separate from other inmates. We can assume that Israel's consulate will visit regularly. Of course, this story will not end with the court's decision. *Marne Rochester*

Suspected spy's remand extended

The Acre Magistrate's Court yesterday extended the remand of suspected spy Nadia Fudeh of Acre by six more days. Fudeh was arrested last month for allegedly passing information to both Egyptian and Iraqi intelligence.

Diana's funeral on Saturday at Westminster Abbey

LONDON (AP) - The British royal palace announced yesterday that Princess Diana's funeral ceremony will be held Saturday at Westminster Abbey, beginning at 11 a.m. She will be buried later that day at Althorp, the Spencer family seat in Northamptonshire, north of London.

The palace, which for years has appeared confused about how to handle the popular princess, would not comment today on the delicate issue of the status of the funeral.

"The status is irrelevant," a spokeswoman said. "This is a unique funeral for a unique person."

Earlier today, Diana's coffin was moved to the Chapel Royal at St. James's Palace, where mourners were invited to sign a book of condolence. The palace is Prince Charles's home.

At the request of both the royal family and the Spencers, Diana's body will not lie in state; instead the coffin will lie privately in front of the chapel's altar until the funeral.

Diana was considered a member of the royal family although she lost her title Her Royal Highness when she was divorced from Charles a year ago.

Britons, meanwhile, kept up a vigil of grief, with flowers, candles and tears.

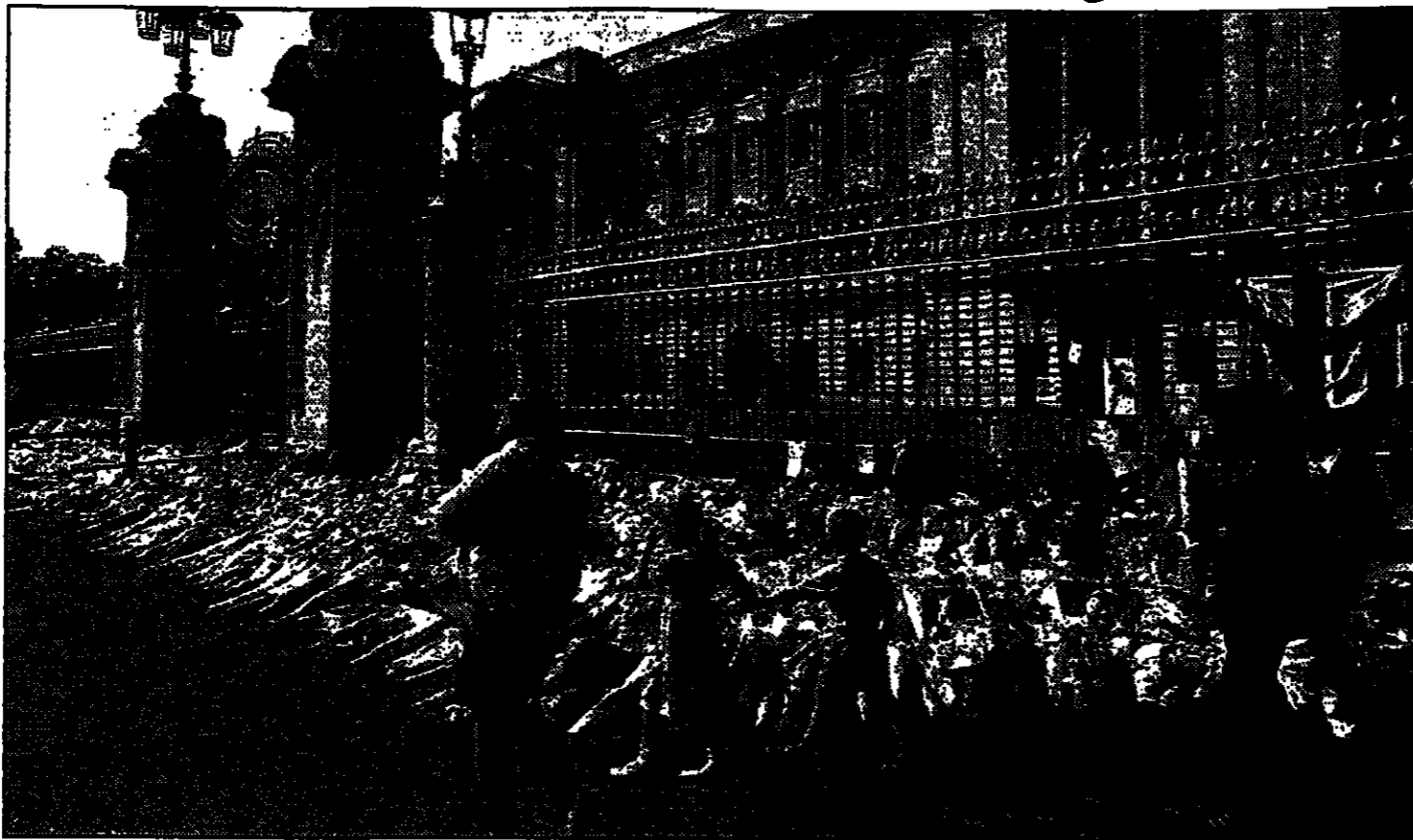
"We are all praying for her because she was such a special person," said Maureen Holden, who brought two grandchildren to the gates of Buckingham Palace, where bouquets were piled high.

Mohammed Fayed, the father of Dodi Fayed, who was killed with Diana, attended a 25-minute prayer service at the Regent's Park Mosque for his son Sunday night.

Up to 20 mourners rushed to help lift the coffin, which was draped in black cloth with gold lettering, said muezzin Raafat Maglad, "because any person who helps carry the deceased believes they receive a blessing."

Fayed, 42, was buried at Brookwood cemetery, 25 miles southwest of London.

Diana and Fayed, a film producer whose credits included "Chariots of Fire," had become



Mourners walk past the floral tributes to Diana, Princess of Wales placed outside Buckingham Palace yesterday. (AP)

close during a series of holidays together in the past five weeks.

They died when their Mercedes, pursued by a swarm of paparazzi, slammed at high speed into a wall of the tunnel. The driver was also killed and a bodyguard was seriously hurt. Police hope that when he is able to talk, he can shed light on the cause of the crash.

Authorities also have confiscated 20 rolls of film shot by the photographers and are hoping the photographs will provide clues to what - and possibly who - caused the car crash.

Seven photographers were in police custody.

A somber Charles flew to Paris on Sunday evening with Diana's two elder sisters, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, 41, and Lady Jane Fellowes, 40, to retrieve Diana's body.

Charles returned immediately to Scotland to comfort his sons,

Prince William, 15, and Prince Harry, 12.

World leaders praised Diana for an international humanitarian role that included vocal support for AIDS victims and a campaign to ban land mines.

In Oslo, Norway, today, delegates opened an international conference on reducing land mines with a moment of silence for Diana, the main benefactress of their cause.

"Her tragic death has made a deep impression on all of us," Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal said.

"Backers of a ban on land mines hope to draft a treaty at the Oslo conference, banning the production, sale or use of such mines.

Pope John Paul II sent his condolences to Queen Elizabeth II, saying he was "deeply saddened at the news." Richard Kay, who reports on the royals for the *Daily*

Mail, said in today's edition that he had spoken to Diana a few hours before the accident, and that she was considering withdrawing from public life.

"She was going to complete her obligations to her charities and to the anti-personnel land mines cause and then, around November, would completely withdraw from her formal public life."

However, Kay said, Diana also talked about setting up hospices for the dying around the world and added despairingly: "I sometimes wonder what's the point? Whatever I do, it's never good enough for some people."

Ordinary folk spoke of the extraordinary warmth and compassion shown to them by a privately troubled woman.

"Her smile made me feel so comfortable and at home," said 15-year-old Shelly Foti, who recently was presented with an

award by the princess.

At St. Paul's Cathedral, where Diana was married 16 years ago, nearly 2,000 people, most in casual weekend dress, crowded into the vast nave for a special evening service.

At Buckingham Palace and Diana's Kensington Palace home, the stream of flowers became an avalanche.

In their grief, both Al Fayed and Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, accused elements of the media of hounding her to death.

Simon Jenkins, former editor of *The Times*, said it was impossible to produce a privacy law that protects only the privacy that merits protection.

"Nobody could pretend that yesterday's horror is anything but a stain on the journalistic escutcheon," he wrote in yesterday's *Times*. "Yet I cannot think of a remedy."

Car crashes haunt world's celebrities

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The sudden death of Princess Diana in a car crash in Paris echoed the tragic ends of a number of other celebrities in automobile accidents.

Diana, 36, and her millionaire companion Dodi Fayed were killed in a car crash early on Sunday while being chased through Paris by photographers on motorcycles.

Diana died hours after the car smashed into a pillar in a road tunnel under the Place de l'Alma in the post-Eighth District of Paris.

Her death bore echoes of the automobile accident in which Princess Grace died 15 years ago at the age of 52.

On September 14, 1982, Princess Grace - the American film actress Grace Kelly - died when the car she was driving

crashed on a hairpin turn on the winding road down to Monaco.

The car plunged over the parapet on a steep winding road overlooking the Mediterranean. Princess Grace's daughter, Princess Stephanie, who was 17 at the time, was also in the vehicle.

Hollywood also has lost some of its brightest stars in accidents. The most famous was James Dean,

who died in a car crash in 1955 and became a symbol of lost youth. Dean, then 24, the quintessential "rebel without a cause" was killed when his Porsche Spyder collided with another car.

In 1967, actress Jayne Mansfield died at the age of 34 when her car collided with a truck while she was en route from Biloxi, Mississippi, to New Orleans.

BACKGROUND

Abbey famous for royal coronations

LONDON (Reuters) - Westminster Abbey, the central London church consecrated in the 11th century, is where the 1,000-year-old British monarchy has traditionally crowned and buried its dead.

Thirty-nine sovereigns have held coronations in the abbey, beginning with the Norman invader William the Conqueror in 1066.

The only monarchs not crowned there were Edward V, one of the princes murdered in the Tower of London in the 15th century, and Edward VIII, who abdicated in 1936 ahead of his coronation.

Seventeen kings and queens are buried at the Protestant abbey, along with 12 husbands and wives of sovereigns and a number of their children.

Many other famous Britons are buried or remembered there; the nave has a floor tablet dedicated to war leader Winston Churchill.

Queen Elizabeth and her parents were married in the Abbey as were the queen's children, Anne and Andrew.

Diana and Charles were married at St. Paul's Cathedral, in the old City of London, which is thought of as London's "cathedral of the people."

The last major funeral in Britain, that of Churchill in 1965, took place in St. Paul's.

Elizabeth, the queen's mother, began the tradition of laying her bridal bouquet on the abbey's "Tomb of the Unknown Warrior."

Set into the floor of the Abbey, this slab of Belgian black marble covers the grave of an unknown allied serviceman brought back from World War One and laid to rest in November 1920.

Westminster Abbey lies across a busy road from the Houses of Parliament and is part of the settlement of Westminster, where the sovereign lived from the 11th to the 16th centuries.

A church has probably stood on the site since the 7th century but it was consecrated officially in the reign of Edward the Confessor in 1065.

Edward was buried before the high altar of the church, starting a tradition which lasted for centuries.

Henry III rebuilt the abbey in the 13th century in the French Gothic style which remains today.

The abbey was designed specially for its role as a coronation church, as it enabled the whole lantern area to be transformed into a coronation "theater."

Elizabeth I, who died in 1603, was the last monarch to have an elaborate tomb built in the abbey but six further monarchs were buried in the vaults below the chapel.

George VI, the present queen's father, was buried in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, after a funeral there.

The cathedral is one of the top tourist sites in London with more than two million visitors a year.

It announced just days ago it would introduce an entrance fee of £5 from March because too often noisy crowds were ruining its spiritual atmosphere.


Perhaps the cathedral's most famous area is Poet's Corner, whose first occupant was Geoffrey Chaucer, buried there in 1400.

The 18th century saw the area around his grave become famous with the introduction of a memorial to William Shakespeare. Most of the poets honored are not buried in the abbey.

Column One

Private intrusion, public shame

By Thomas O'Dwyer



The paparazzi did it. Or maybe a drunk driver did it. Or maybe the confluence of events and omens amount to a mysterious act of God in the death of the princess.

Whatever the verdict, don't expect me to hang my head in shame for being a journalist just because of the paparazzi wolf packs roaming the streets. We journalists condemn their loutish scavenging, but we are not them. Let the public now howling so hypocritically against "the meeja" hang their own heads for all the times they have rushed out to buy pictures of royals and celebrities having their toes sucked, or their sun lotion applied, or their skirts blowing up.

You want free market? This is free market. If enough people demand soft porn, vicarious thrills, the right to stick their noses into the homes and yachts and beds of the rich and famous, then those in the infotainment business will supply the goodies. Anyone who ever has ogled someone's hand up a celebrity skirt in a magazine has bought it. The price? Ask Diana's motherless boys. The British tabloids that bought the most famous of the paparazzi's pictures for sums between \$500,000 and a million dollars more than recouped their outlay. Those issues sold more copies of the newspapers than ever before. Who bought them, we may wonder? Surely not the paparazzi and journalists.

Whining hypocrisy

The public may be sick of the media but, believe me, the journalists get just as sick and tired of the public's whining, insults and hypocrisy. It's just part of the job to put up with it. Journalism is one of those professions that teaches one to love humanity but beware of people.

Every journalist has heard a thousand times from people who say they don't know what is going on in the world because the media don't tell them. The media are trivial. The media are biased. The media are appalling.

Some members of the profession may be all three. But not many. Every time someone tells a journalist they don't understand what

is going on in Northern Ireland, or Cambodia, or even the White House, the journalist should ask "how hard have you looked?" One can walk to any newsstand any day, buy maybe two serious newspapers and one magazine and, without too much effort and some intelligent reading become a near expert on any major issue of the day. There will be writers one agrees with, writers one loathes, writers who get it almost right and writers who get some of it wrong. But they are all writers paid (badly in most cases) to bring the public the truth and informed opinion as near-as-damn-it right on Bosnia. That's before Albania blows up behind their backs and their editors tell them to haul ass down there and look sharp about it. They go. They are proud of their skills and they love their jobs.

Media Glamor

The public loves to hate the media - sure. So why are enrollments in university media courses climbing into the stratosphere - outflanked only by demand for

also-glamorous high-tech computer courses?

Why is every journalist pestered by obsessive attention-seekers who want them to write the story of their fight with their spouses or their bosses, or their encounters with aliens, or their opinions on what's wrong with the world?

Why do people on the street leap forward to complain to any camera about "invasion of privacy" while others write insulting personal letters to reporters they have never met?

The arrival of the Internet is exposing the public lie behind growing hatred of the media. The Internet supposedly has become just another arm of "the meeja" - awash with child pornography, stalkers, sex maniacs and serial killers. It's funny - but like most professional journalists, I have been on the Internet for three years and never seen anyone having sex with a chimp, nor even with a common-or-garden blurry picture of a naked woman. I've come across neo-Nazis and antisemites, only because I went looking for them for a specific piece of research.

Self-criticism

Wait a minute! Surely the public complaining about the Internet is the public complaining about itself and its own low taste, bigotry and poor judgment? It is a segment of the public that was crowing not long ago (in letters to editors and radio phone-ins) that the Internet meant the end of journalists, and good riddance.

Hooray! Everyone can be their own journalist. Indeed they can - and what a nightmare. Give them some easy-to-operate medical equipment and everyone can be a brain surgeon too.

Somewhere in Chicago is an organization, "Jews in support of the Serbs" without an address or phone or fax numbers, that has regularly - and anonymously mailed out to foreign editors a semi-literate tirade of "true facts" about the wonderful Bosnian Serbs - and the lying conspiracies against them by Nazis, Communists, and Western women journalists who sleep with Moslems.

Take this minor lunacy, multiply it a million fold, and there you have the Internet as run by the amateur cyber journalists who know better than the hated meeja. The worst are on the unfortunately named "newsgroups."

The Internet was finally going to kill the newspaper. Now it is the newspaper alone that is saving the Internet. It is curious indeed that the only trustworthy source of information on the Internet for world events is to be found on the web sites of respected newspapers.

Just watch for the billions of words of ill-informed conspiracy theories that will swamp the newsgroups and web sites about Diana Princess of Wales. Sorry, but I won't be able to report them to you. My time is precious, and I'll be checking my facts on the web sites of Le Monde, the London Telegraph, the Irish Times, or the Washington Post - or the Jerusalem Post when I'm away. That's my "meeja" and for all its flaws, I believe in the people who work in it, and I trust the truths it tells me.

Yeltsin: I won't run in 2000

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin confirmed yesterday that he would not run for a third term, saying he would make way for a younger, more energetic candidate.

"My term ends in 2000; I will not, of course, run again. A younger generation will come, more energetic," Yeltsin, 66, told children on the first day of their school year.

Yeltsin was elected to a second term a year ago despite worries about his health. Russia's post-communist constitution, passed in 1993, allows the president only two terms in office.

But Yeltsin's return to a busy work schedule this year after surgery in November, constitutional changes since he was first elected in 1991 and concern in his entourage about finding a replacement had fueled rumors that he might run again.

Yeltsin also hosted Germany's President Roman Herzog at the Kremlin.

Speaking to the press following that meeting, Yeltsin said good relations between Moscow and Bonn were a top priority.

"I would say that our relations are a priority among priorities. Of course problems [between Russia and Germany] exist but none that cannot be solved," Yeltsin said, after an hour of talks with the German head of state.

Herzog, the first president of a reunited Germany to visit Russia, was due to hold talks later yesterday with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the chairmen of the two houses of parliament.

Herzog, whose office is largely ceremonial, is expected to visit a military cemetery today where German soldiers killed in World War II are buried and will later travel to the central city of Samara.

Yeltsin told reporters he would meet German Chancellor Helmut Kohl during a meeting of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in October.

He said Kohl, Yeltsin's closest Western ally, would also be invited for informal talks in the near future "in a corner of Russia." The Iar-Tass news agency said recently the talks would take place near Lake Baikal in Siberia.

Despite the warm relationship between Yeltsin and Kohl, Russo-German relations have been overshadowed by the issue of German art seized as booty by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II.

Yeltsin has vetoed a parliamentary bill that would have made the booty art property of the Russian federal government but parliamentarians have threatened to ask the Constitutional Court to intervene in the row.

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A decade on Prozac

Ten years since the first prescription was filled, much remains unknown about the long-term effects of America's favorite anti-depressant

By JAMIE TALAN

Depression didn't settle quietly into Mary's life. It tormented virtually every moment of her day, making even the smallest household duty an uncomfortable and fearful task. It frightened her into wakefulness night after night. It left her confused, scared, defeated.

"I felt as if I were drowning," the 49-year-old New York woman recalled recently.

That was a year ago. Now, things are different. The clinical depression that clouded Mary's life for more than a year has lifted. Her energy has returned. She smiles. She gives credit to a tiny pill that she began taking last year in an ongoing study at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Had Mary suffered these classic signs of depression even as recently as the mid-1980s, doctors would not have so readily prescribed a pill to lift her mood. She may have spent years on an analyst's couch with little relief of her symptoms. The anti-depressants available then were fraught with troublesome side effects and carried the danger that depressed people could overdose on them and commit suicide.

But 10 years ago Prozac was born and with it a change in how depression was viewed: not as a complex psychological problem to

be treated with psychotherapy, but as a symptom that might be eliminated with some adjustments in brain chemistry. Prozac is the first generation of drugs called selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors, or SSRIs, which help the brain make better use of the neurochemical serotonin. Depressed people seem to have an imbalance in how their brains regulate serotonin.

But as prescriptions for anti-depressants surge - tens of millions are written a year now - experts are working hard to figure out just how safe it is for millions of people to be taking these medicines for the long term. The current theory, based on following formerly depressed people, is that staying on medicine prevents future episodes. (And patients can't overdose on SSRIs.) But experts also point to convincing evidence that certain forms of psychotherapy can help brain chemistry right itself.

Brain scan studies at Washington University in St. Louis of patients undergoing cognitive therapy for depression show the brain regions normalize with talk therapy just as they do with medicines. And there is new evidence that even monthly psychotherapy sessions may help prevent relapse just as effectively as anti-depressants.

"There are dangerous precedents in the way that anti-depressant drugs are being perceived," said William Danton, a psychologist at

the University of Nevada Medical School and co-author with psychologist David Antonuccio of an upcoming paper in the journal *Behavioral Therapy*. "There's this no-fault idea that these are brain imbalances, and we're disconnecting depression and anxiety from life experiences."

Approved for the treatment of clinical depression, Prozac - chemically known as fluoxetine - continues to be the fastest-selling anti-depressant. Managed-care companies are reimbursing 80 percent for psychiatric visits to obtain prescription refills, compared with 50% for psychotherapy visits.

"Managed-care companies are making decisions that Prozac works better and is cheaper than cognitive therapy," said Danton. "It doesn't work better, and it's not cheaper."

In their latest study, the Nevada researchers factored in relapse rate, the costs of being depressed and the effects on those who dropped out of treatment and found that SSRIs such as Prozac, Zoloft and Paxil are actually costing managed-care companies 33% more than psychotherapy, Danton said.

The ease of prescribing a drug with side effects no more troubling than temporary nausea, sleep disruptions or loss of libido has led to the family doctor's becoming a new overseer of mental problems.

Seventy percent of prescriptions for anti-depressants are now written by primary-care physicians. What that means to psychologists like Danton is that these physicians know of no other way to treat depression.

Some experts say Prozac is now viewed as a drug that can be used by almost anyone to help elevate his or her mood at unsettling moments.

More than 17 million Americans have used Prozac since it was first approved in 1987, and its manufacturer - Eli Lilly and Co. - has announced a large advertising campaign designed to increase its customer base. The prescriptions continue to climb, doubling even since 1990, with 20 million prescriptions last year alone.

"These medicines have revolutionized psychiatry," said Dr. Steven Paul of Lilly's research division for the central nervous system. "In many ways these medicines have helped de-stigmatize depression.... People don't feel that they are on some kind of mind-altering drug."

Dr. Donald Klein, director of research at the New York State Psychiatric Institute in Manhattan and a professor of psychiatry at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, has prescribed many anti-depressants as they've entered the market and says that this generation of medi-

cines doesn't have any effect if a person isn't truly depressed. "It works only if there was a chemical imbalance in the brain that needed fixing," Klein said.

More and more, people are requesting Prozac as a panacea for life's emotional ills. "It's the desire for people to get back to life, to function," said Alan Clark, president of Lilly's US operations. The pharmaceutical company's hope, he said, is to reach people who may be suffering and not know they have depression.

Scientists estimate that 18 million people suffer severe depression each year, and one in every five people will experience a depressive episode in his or her lifetime.

The diagnosis can be made if a person experiences helplessness, loss of hope, sadness, crying, sleep or appetite disturbances, or difficulty concentrating for at least two straight weeks.

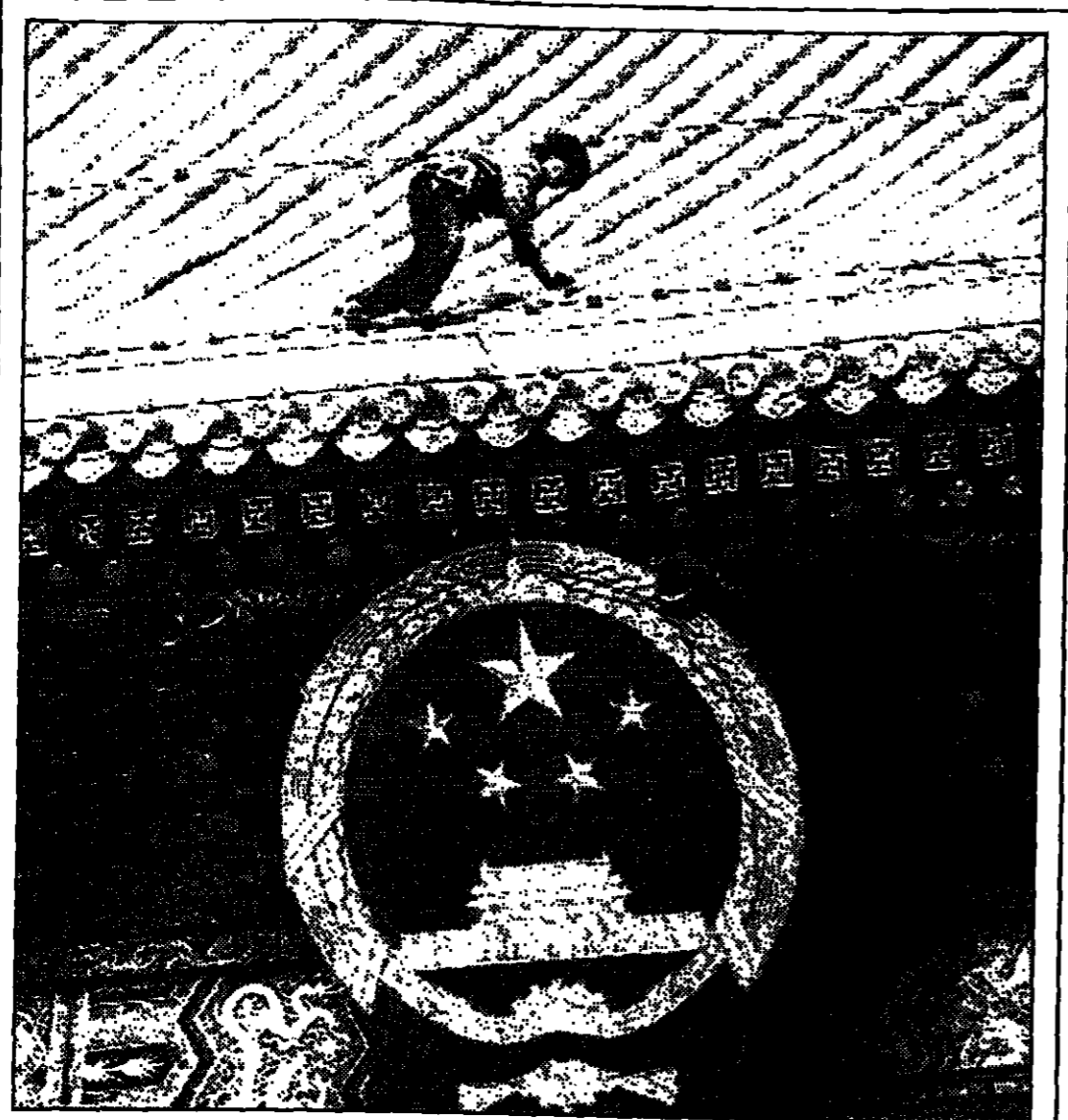
Some people believe Prozac has created a new generation of depressed patients, blurring the lines between clinical depression and personality quirks that leave some people naturally gloomy.

Dr. Peter Kramer, in his 1994 best seller, *Listening to Prozac*, examined the impact of the medicine on society's psyche and suggested it could alter the nature of the self, for example "lending the introvert the social skills of a salesman."

After a decade of use of Prozac and related drugs, several questions remain unanswered. How long should patients be treated? Does long-term use increase the chance of a relapse once the person stops taking the medicine? How common is relapse? Do these drugs lose their effectiveness over time as the body becomes used to them? What's the correct long-term dose? Under what conditions should a person stop taking medicine? And, finally, what is the role of psychotherapy in treating depression and preventing relapse?

"These medicines have helped us learn a lot about depression, but there is still so much we don't understand," said Dr. Martin Keller, chairman of psychiatry and human behavior at Brown University's School of Medicine in Providence, Rhode Island. Keller is coordinating a trial at a dozen centers around the country that may help answer some of these questions. Funded by Bristol-Myers Squibb, makers of an SSRI called Serzone, this is the first large study comparing medication and therapy.

The study compares patients getting cognitive-behavior therapy to those on medicine, and a third arm of the study is testing whether a combination of both treatments will work even better than either alone. (Newsday)




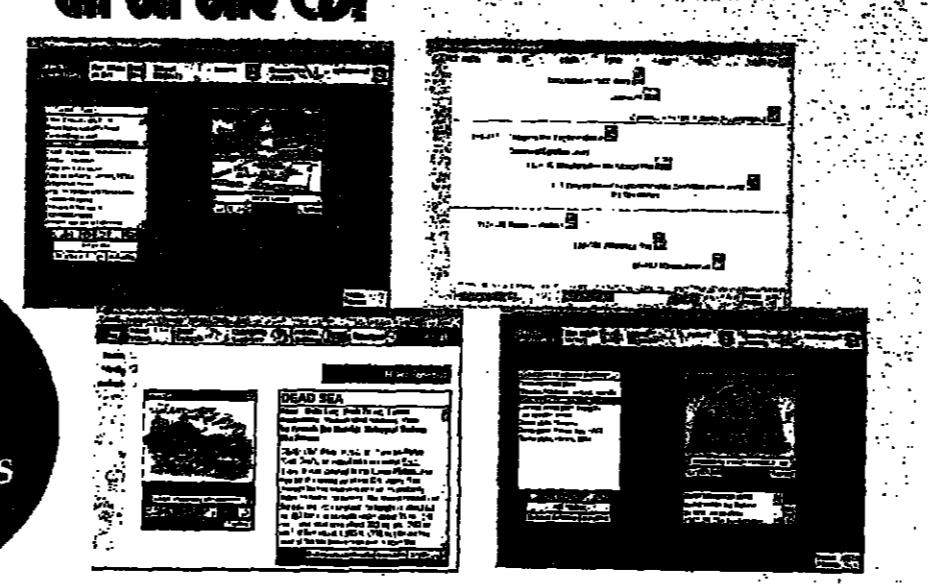
Red alert
A Chinese worker repairs the roof of Beijing's Tiananmen Gate as part of a major clean-up operation to prepare the city for the 15th Communist Party Congress. The Congress decides changes among China's top leadership, and sets political and economic direction. (AP)

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Treating children

Many people accept the idea of placing a child on medicine to control unruly behavior. But medication, in anti-depressant, and just watch the jaws drop.

"I felt parents that depression is a family brain disease," said Dr. Harold Koplewicz, director of the Child Study Center at New York University Medical Center. "Once they understand the context, I explain how the new anti-depressants have helped enormously in the treatment of anxiety and depression. It's not a 'feel good' medicine. We're not druging kids instead of figuring out the root cause of depression."

Koplewicz said the most important thing is making sure the child is correctly diagnosed. Today's debate is not about whether children can be depressed, but about the best way to treat them. Drugs, therapy or both?

The rigors of psychiatric drug research have seldom included children. Indeed, four out of five medicines listed in the Physician's Desk Reference have not been tested on younger people. (Once a drug is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, doctors can prescribe it to anybody.) President Clinton recently announced a plan that would require drug companies to test whether medicines are safe and effective for children. FDA officials also are concerned that the use of anti-depressants on children is on the rise, with little information available about that use. The agency is urging drug companies to start studies. Also, the National Institute of Mental Health has just supported the opening of three child psychopharmacology centers - at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, Johns Hopkins Medical Institute and the University of Pittsburgh. These centers will conduct medication studies on children with depression and anxiety disorders.

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Are the media out of control?

The death of Princess Diana might prove to be one of those seminal events that convince the public that the media have simply gone too far

By HOWARD KURTZ

Last May, Maria Shriver and Arnold Schwarzenegger were briefly trapped in their Mercedes when two Fleet Street photographers in separate cars forced them off the road outside Los Angeles. The men, Giles Harrison and Andrew O'Brien, were trying to get exclusive shots of the pregnant Shriver as she and her husband were taking their son to school. The photographers were charged with misdemeanors, and O'Brien with battery for shoving the school's principal.

The incident barely caused a ripple in today's jaded media culture. Paparazzi, after all, routinely and relentlessly pursue famous figures in search of pictures that can be marketed to the highest bidder.

But what was once widely considered international sport, or a mere hazard of fame, turned chillingly dangerous Saturday night in Paris, where a car accident killed Princess Diana and her friend Dodi Al Fayed as their driver raced to elude several paparazzi on motorcycles.

"This is ugly," said Steve Coz, editor of the *National Enquirer*, who admits that he often buys celebrity photographs without knowing how they were obtained. "It's getting crazy. It's changed from just observation to hunting people." Nearly everyone in the media food chain has feasted on the fruits of these celebrity stalkers, creating a lucrative market for their hastily snapped shots of the powerful at play.

"In every profession there are people who go too far, who stretch notions of ethics and decency to the limit and beyond," said David Lutman, president of the National Press Photographers Association. "It's had a dramatic effect on our image. The marketplace has pushed some aspects of photography in the direction of pursuit journalism. Somebody's purchasing this stuff."

"All of us ought to be thinking, was this necessary?" he said. "High-speed chases are clearly a deplorable extreme."

In this environment, almost anyone can suddenly become the figure in the viewfinder. Local camera crews, for example, stake out the homes of parents whose child has just been killed, hoping to capture the raw emotion on videotape.

At a time when polls show dwindling public confidence in

journalists, the death of the 36-year-old princess could become one of those seminal events that convince millions the media are out of control. The ongoing clash between those who wave the banner of freedom of the press and those who want to protect their private lives is perhaps the most visible part of a noisy debate over intrusive media behavior.

Diana's brother, Charles, the ninth Earl Spencer, said on Sunday that he always knew the press would kill her, and his com-

... The easiest person to blame is the guy out there taking the pictures." Besides, he said, "I have a mortgage."

The right to visual privacy was first asserted in the 1890s by a prominent Harvard professor, Samuel Warren, who was upset that photographers had invaded his daughter's wedding. Since then, according to Elliot King, a Loyola University media instructor, the courts have been reluctant to criminalize such behavior. The original paparazzi were

any more pictures of the former first lady.

Such legal tangles were rare before the birth of tabloid television shows in the mid-1980s. But as television greatly increased the market for such pictures, and the demand for ever more exposure of ever more celebrities, a growing number of stars have been fighting back.

Last year, actor George Clooney organized a boycott against the Paramount Pictures television group after one of its programs,

on Martha's Vineyard. The first family is said to have been upset.

Nor are business figures immune. Two U.S. Healthcare executives, Nancy Wolfson and Richard Wolfson, sued *Inside Edition* for invasion of privacy last year after its crew rented a boat to film the family through the curtains of their vacation home. The crew also used a van to follow a bodyguard driving the couple's three-year-old daughter to school.

A preliminary injunction was dropped after the program, which had already aired its story, agreed to take no more pictures of the couple.

While some have sought legal remedies, actor Alec Baldwin took matters into his own hands. The *Batman* star accused photographer Alan Zanger and shoved Zanger's camera into his face after the photographer attempted to take pictures of Baldwin's wife, Kim Basinger, as she brought their baby home from the hospital in 1995.

Baldwin was acquitted of misdemeanor battery; Zanger filed a \$1-million lawsuit against him.

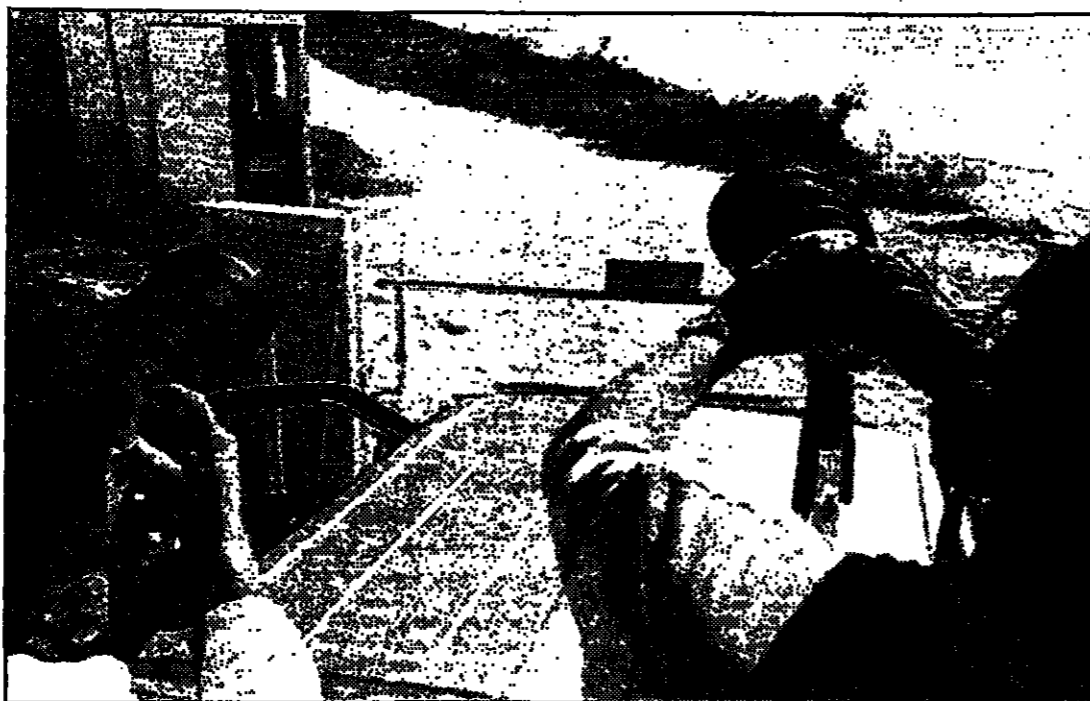
Some paparazzi regard such confrontations almost as a badge of honor. Photographer Turiak boasts that he was assaulted by Burt Reynolds after taking pictures of the actor and his then-girlfriend, Loni Anderson. "I was walking away and he punched me in the back of the head," Turiak said. "That actually brought me quite a bit of notoriety."

Coz of the *Enquirer* says he is bidding against *People* magazine — which has run 43 Diana covers over the years — for the last pictures of the princess before the crash. "There's this tremendous obsession in the public for celebrity information," he said. "Everyone has dipped into celebrity coverage, from the big networks to *Time* and *Newsweek*. It's money; celebrities sell."

Coz says he will not buy any of the crash-scene photos, which he says are being offered for \$1 million, as a way of protesting the methods of what he calls the "stalkers."

Actor Tom Cruise says he has been followed by paparazzi in the same Paris tunnel where Diana was killed. "You don't know what it's like being chased by them," he told Reuters. "It is harassment under the guise of, you know, 'We are the press, we are entitled.' And when people are having a private moment, they should be allowed to have a private moment."

(The Washington Post)



Photographers aiming long lenses down an area of beach in Barbuda, in pursuit of Princess Diana, in this 1995 file photo. (AP)

ment suddenly seems less than hyperbolic. This was a woman who frequently complained she could not go to an exercise class — or, in one case, to her therapist — without a half-dozen shutterbugs snapping away.

THOSE WHO engage in such pursuits insist they are simply feeding the public appetite. Russell Turiak, a tabloid photographer in New York, photographed Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith's wedding in Aspen from a helicopter, and earned six figures for his shots of John Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette honeymooning in Turkey.

"My feeling is that I am the messenger," Turiak said. "What are you going to do here, kill the messenger? People buy the pictures. This fan-addict mentality, the hunger for the information — isn't the public then responsible?"

Italian street photographers who specialized in exposing the secrets of movie stars. One such photographer, Tazio Secchiarioli, was the model for the character named Paparazzo in Federico Fellini's 1960 film, *La Dolce Vita*. Even he says some of his colleagues have overstepped the bounds of good taste.

"But on the other hand," Secchiarioli told Reuters, "I don't see why [celebrities] try to run away from paparazzi. At a certain point, they should just let themselves be photographed and move on." Before Diana, the world's most photographed woman was probably Jacqueline Onassis. In 1975, Onassis obtained a court order requiring photographer Ron Gallella to stay at least 25 feet from her and 30 feet from her children. Gallella subsequently violated the order and in 1982 agreed not to take

Hard Copy, violated an agreement not to do stories about him. Joined by Madonna (whom *Hard Copy* filmed with her baby through the windows of her home), Whoopi Goldberg, Steven Spielberg and others, the group said they would no longer cooperate with Paramount shows such as *Entertainment Tonight*. Paramount eventually agreed not to air celebrity video obtained surreptitiously or through harassment.

Politicians have hardly been exempt from "ambush" interviews and secret filming. Two years ago, Democratic Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia denounced journalists as "vultures" and "buzzards" after a *Prime Time Live* crew showed up while he walked his dog outside his Virginia home. Recently, a French photographer obtained an illicit picture of President and Hillary Clinton in bathing suits

He wanted to be Diana's Onassis

By RICHARD BOUDREAUX

LONDON — If there was a suitor who could offer Princess Diana some privacy and peace of mind in the style to which she was accustomed, it was Dodi Fayed.

The son of the Egyptian self-made billionaire who owns the Harrods department store, Dodi had bodyguards and private planes. He had the use of 11 luxury homes from Manhattan to the French Riviera. And he got \$100,000 a month from his father.

When the 41-year-old playboy fell for Diana this summer and whisked her to the Mediterranean on his father's 190-foot yacht, a friend of his said, "He sees himself as Aristotle Onassis and Diana as his Jackie O."

Diana apparently felt the same way. "I think Di understands why Jackie Kennedy married Onassis," the *Daily Mail's* royal watcher, Richard Kay, wrote at the time. "There was this extraordinary circus around her, and he offered the opportunity to get away from it."

Their deaths in a Paris tunnel car crash while fleeing photographers early Sunday shattered that protective cocoon. The accident also brought a tragic twist to the often painful story of an immigrant family's rise to extraordinary prominence — but not full acceptance — in British upper-class society.

In many ways, Dodi and his father were viewed here as

spokesman said Dodi spent about a third of his time on "product development" for the store, but the spokesman couldn't think of a specific product he had developed. "He had an office in the store but never walked around as if he were the owner's son," the spokesman said.

Dodi's eight-month marriage to Suzanne Gregard, a onetime American model, ended amicably in 1987.

Another model, Kelly Fisher, claimed last month that she had given up a lucrative career, at his insistence, to marry him, only to be spurned when he fell for Diana.

Meanwhile, the playboy's father was becoming a pillar of British society.

He bought Harrods, *Punch*, the Scottish castle of Clan Ross and a number of other emblems of empire. He employed 5,000 people, steered major investment into Britain and once averted a national currency crisis by persuading his friend the Sultan of Brunei to keep billions of pounds in sterling rather than switch them into dollars.

Harrods gave Fayed an in with Buckingham Palace.

The shop has four warrants, one from each of the members of the royal family allowed to issue such social seals of approval: Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, the Queen Mother and Prince Charles.

Fayed also sponsors the annual

'Dodi is a chick magnet. To get a girl, I don't think there are any limits on his extravagances, whether it is chartering a plane or getting on a boat. He would go to any port.'

— Andrew Wainrib, an old friend of Dodi's

Onassis-like characters, super-rich outsiders in Camelot.

Mohammed Fayed, the son of a schoolteacher, was born in Egypt 63 years ago.

Through a combination of shrewdness, connections and luck, he struck it rich in the oil business before moving here in the early 1970s.

Dodi, born in Alexandria, was the only child of Mohammed Fayed's marriage to the late Samira Khashoggi, the sister of billionaire arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. The boy grew up in a world of jet-set privilege, dividing time between family homes in Egypt and France.

He attended the exclusive Le Rosey school in Switzerland and did a short stint at Sandhurst, the British military academy for young men seeking social status. Later he worked briefly as an attaché in the United Arab Emirates Embassy in London.

He also became a fixture on the London nightclub scene, a lover of fast cars and beautiful women.

"He is a chick magnet," Andrew Wainrib, an old friend who used to barhop with Dodi, told a British TV interviewer last month. "To get a girl, I don't think there are any limits on his extravagances, whether it is chartering a plane or getting on a boat. He would go to any port."

Other acquaintances described Dodi as a dark, curly-haired Hugh Hefner. He "collected celebrities" as well as women, they said, and sat back quietly at his lavish parties to watch them have a good time. His guest lists included actors Tony Curtis, Ryan O'Neal, Farrah Fawcett and Brooke Shields.

Oddly, for a man with wealth, Dodi often failed to pay for the clubs and mansions he rented for these bashes. In Beverly Hills, he leased a series of mansions for prices ranging from \$20,000 to \$35,000 a month and was sued repeatedly for stiffing the landlords with nonpayment or bounced checks.

In London and Hollywood, he worked in movie production, cofinancing the Academy Award-winning British film *Chariots of Fire*, along with the not-so-successful *Hook*, *The World According to Garp* and *Fix*.

"He wasn't exactly a serious producer," said Derek Malcolm, film critic of the British newspaper *The Guardian*. "He was a dabbler. He loved being around the celebrities. He didn't have much else to do."

He was even less involved in business with his father, who had never designated a family heir to run the store. A Harrods

Royal Windsor Horse Show, where he shares the queen's box.

But Fayed's purchase of Harrods, for \$900 million in 1985, was also to bring him discredit and prevent him from achieving one goal that had eluded him — British citizenship.

Roland W. Rowland, a politically powerful rival, also coveted the department store. After the purchase, he denounced Fayed as "the hero from zero" and persuaded the Department of Trade and Industry to investigate the Egyptian's background and financing.

In a report that did not affect ownership of the store, the department concluded in 1990 that Fayed had lied about his origins, "practiced deception on a grand scale" and changed his name. The report was cited in 1994 when the government rejected his application for British citizenship.

"It was a terribly British way of doing things," said Paul Goodman, a commentator at Britain's *Daily Telegraph*. "It was a battle between the establishment, with its accepted British ways of doing things, and a charismatic outsider who busted in." While acknowledging that he had altered some minor facts about his life when he was buying Harrods, Fayed accused the Conservative government of former prime minister John Major of racism and began a no-holds-barred campaign to clear his name.

When the campaign came to nothing, he disclosed that he had bribed a string of officials to help him pursue it. Three cabinet ministers resigned in disgrace, and the scandal helped bring down Major's government last year.

Many who know him believe that the vengeful Fayed had more than just his son's romantic feelings in mind when he invited Diana to vacation with his family in the south of France in July.

Dodi and Diana had met 10 years earlier — when his polo team beat Prince Charles's team in a match at Windsor Great Park — but there was no hint of romance until that vacation. Then, after Di turned up last month on Dodi's yacht, British papers began reporting that the elder Fayed was eager to see the couple married.

"There's no evidence that he was discouraging the idea," Goodman said, noting the royal family's unease over the relationship. "He would have seen the angles as well as anyone. It was a fantastic way, I suppose, for him of slapping the so-called establishment in the face."

(Los Angeles Times)

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Give Gaon a break

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

For those interested in Israel's economy, the most recent chapter in the saga of Koor - Israel's largest and most profitable industrial conglomerate - has been fascinating. In the past, the story of Koor - founded in 1944 by the Histadrut's construction company Solel Boneh to run the heavy industries it owned - centered around its unique contribution to the country's economic and social development. Later the focus moved to Koor's immense size and scope of activities, and the fact that as a conglomerate run along socialist principles, it was as much interested in social considerations as in efficiency and profits.

By the late 1980s, the story was about mismanagement and impending bankruptcy and then, following the entry of Benny Gaon as Koor's CEO in June 1988, about Koor's tortuous and painful recovery. This recovery, orchestrated and successfully carried out by Gaon, involved the cancellation of part of Koor's debts by the government and banks, the closing of many factories, the firing of over half of its 25,000 employees and a systematic process of privatization. This was successfully concluded in 1995, when the Histadrut finally sold its last block of shares in the conglomerate, and Koor shares began to be traded on Wall Street.

The most recent chapter moved the action on to one strategic partner in Koor (Shamrock) being bought out by another (Claridge) - a not uncommon occurrence in the business world. But the media coverage of this chapter is accompanied by a good deal of disinformation and vicious speculation. The disinformation resulted from the fact that the parties involved kept silent while the deal was being made. The speculation, concentrating on the future

Israeli society finds it difficult to salute those who have made it

of Benny Gaon, stemmed from baser motives. From his very first day at Koor in 1988, part of the media started to predict his downfall. Even when they were guessing more than reporting during the recent developments, many reporters were predicting that, whatever the outcome, Gaon was going to lose his job.

WHEN Stanley Gold, Shamrock's head, called for a spin-off of Koor shares - which would have involved the breaking up of Koor as a conglomerate - many reporters enthusiastically supported the idea, pointing out that while it would benefit the shareholders, it would also make Gaon redundant. At the next stage, when it became known that Shamrock was selling out to Claridge, rumors flew that Claridge had its own candidate for chief executive officer, and that Gaon would be sent packing - all this despite explicit and persistent denials by Charles Bronfman, Claridge's boss.

Finally, several days ago, after Koor published its second-quarter report and balance sheet showing a drop in profits (due to the economic slowdown) to \$30.2 million, ITV's economic correspondent announced that Gaon would surely be made to pay the price. Pay the price for what - for making a handsome profit despite the circumstances? Why all the daggers? To a large extent, it is due to the fact that we live in a society which finds it difficult to salute those who have made it - and as a self-made man who put Koor back on track against all the odds, Gaon is definitely a success story.

Another reason is Gaon's personality. He is one of those people who generates instant feelings - one either admires and adores him, or dislikes him intensely. Yitzhak Rabin belonged to the first group. "Benny, you have done a great job," Rabin stated fondly in a public speech, not long before his assassination. The economic reporters are also divided into those who worship the man and those who are willing to stab him in the back. Nevertheless, while journalists have a perfect right to have likes and dislikes, and to engage in wishful thinking, it is their professional duty to keep these out of their reporting and reserve them for opinion pieces. The story today is "whether Koor" not "whether Gaon."

The writer is a political scientist.



Poor diplomacy

YOSSI BELIN

Last week we were treated to two pieces of good news in the realm of Israeli foreign policy. Since good news has not been abundant in the past year, like finders of a great treasure, we fervently pounced on the announcements. The first was the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Croatia, and the second was the Chinese agreement not to supply Iran with a nuclear reactor.

On second glance, these achievements appear a lot less spectacular, and stem from a profound underestimation of the Israeli public and its memory.

The Chinese issue is simple: Binyamin Netanyahu simply recycled two-year-old information, and managed to fool the media for a few hours.

The Croatia business is more complicated. Contrary to the usual scenario, in which Israel courts countries that are undecided about establishing diplomatic ties, this time it was Israel that was being courted and Israel that rejected the suitor. Israel's refusal was based on a reason similar to that which caused us to recall our ambassador from Vienna in 1986, after the election of Kurt Waldheim as president of Austria. In 1989, a history professor named Franjo Tudjman published a book claiming that the Holocaust was a Jewish invention aimed at justifying wrongdoings committed by the Jews. A few years ago, in his election campaign, Tudjman boasted that

his wife was neither a Serb nor a Jew.

Since 1991, Tudjman has been asking to establish diplomatic ties with us, in an effort to gain legitimacy. He has invited many Israelis to visit him, paid them great respect, and asked them to act as his emissaries to promote his goal. Even in Israel, an organized lobby tried to encourage establishing diplomatic ties with Croatia.

A Netanyahu who is not capable of relinquishing ties with Croatia is a weak Netanyahu

Yet none of this helped. We made diplomatic relations contingent upon a public apology - in Croatian - about what he had written in Croatian, and on a retraction of the offensive statements. He never did. All he did was publish an English version of his book, which excluded the chapter on the Holocaust and European Jews. Three successive Israeli governments refused to cultivate economic deals contingent on diplomatic relations: the Shamir government, the Rabin government and the Peres government. Yet it is the supposedly nation-

alistic government of Netanyahu which has decided the time has come to change direction. In a recently released joint communiqué, the Croatian side denounces Nazism and the Holocaust, and apologizes for the offense to Jews on the part of pro-Nazi elements in Croatia. President Tudjman is willing to come to Yad Vashem and to apologize there too, for the crimes committed by his people. Not a single word of apology for his book; only a reminder that a revised edition was published, as well as a mutual promise to establish diplomatic relations by the end of September.

For many years Israel's foreign policy has stood on three legs: an effort to achieve peace with our neighbors, an effort to establish our international standing and to expand our economic ties, and an effort to pursue a Jewish foreign policy. Clearly, there are strong links between these different legs. An Israel which does not make a genuine effort to achieve peace, content instead with paying lip service to peace, finds itself more and more isolated in the world, and incapable of implementing a Jewish foreign policy, which sometimes demands making sacrifices. A Netanyahu who is not capable of relinquishing ties with Croatia is a weak Netanyahu who preaches nationalism but does not practice it...certainly not through his actions.

The writer is a Labor MK.

The facts on the ground

AARON LERNER

Having talked with Maj. Gen. (Res.) Oren Shahor after he formally joined the Labor Party, I understand why the Palestinians have gotten away with violating the Oslo Agreements from the very beginning.

Oren Shahor was a key player in the negotiations with the Palestinians. He typifies the officers who openly embraced the Labor government's reckless euphoria in the "peace process." He is intimately familiar with the various provisions limiting the size and weaponry of the Palestinian "police" - not to mention the unqualified prohibition on militias.

But Shahor doesn't really think these limitations are important. When asked if he considered the many thousands of extra forces, the extra weapons, the illegal armed militias, etc. to be serious concerns, he replied that "these weapons aren't tanks or planes. They are nothing. Not a technical problem."

Well, the Hizbullah doesn't have tanks or planes in Lebanon and they seem to be able to keep their minds to it. The Hizbullah's fighting forces number in the hundreds - there are many tens of thousands of PA soldiers and armed militiamen from various factions and terror movements in the autonomy today.

Two years ago, while in opposition, Ariel Sharon painted quite a different picture about the importance of Palestinian forces. "During an invasion, even the smallest delay in mobilization can be critical," he explained. "Sometimes we block a road for a suspicious bomb. Here we are talking about tens of thousands of armed people who can plant bombs, put up stone barriers, snipe from the hills... There is no question that the Palestinian forces can be an impediment to the mobilization."

I have no doubt that Shahor's Palestinian counterparts were well aware that he didn't consider these security violations to be of any consequence. And they knew something else: that Shahor and his colleagues were committed to

completing a deal with the Palestinians, come what may.

"We have passed the point of no return," Shahor explained. "[Likud MK] Benny [Begin] thinks you can have an explosion [of the agreement] and that's that. I say that after an explosion we will return to the talks but from a worse position - after a Palestinian war of independence..."

BUT now Shahor is in the opposi-

If the premier turns his back on Palestinian violations, he will lose credibility as a serious negotiator

tion. Has the Netanyahu government changed the game? It's hard to tell.

This government has been schizophrenic. Last February, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai chose to ignore settler warnings and told reporters that there were no Palestinian security violations of the Hebron agreement. It took until April for the Prime Minister's Office to release a report titled "Unilateral Measures Taken by the Palestinian Authority in Violation of Oslo" which revealed that Mordechai was way off the mark.

When Mofdet MK Benny Elon asked Mordechai in a parliamentary question "if the Palestinian Police exceed what was set in the Oslo Agreement in terms of its size or the types of weapons in its possession," he coyly replied that "the authorized number of weapons and police numbered among the forces of the Palestinian Police do not exceed the quantities set in the Oslo Agreement."

"Authorized" not "actual." This when the April "Unilateral Measures" report explicitly stated that there were at least 5,000 extra PA police in the West Bank and Gaza.

And there are many other examples. Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi is a big talker about extradition. Yet he waited over half a year before submitting his first extradition request. He hasn't even decided if Israel wants the PA to hand over the three members of the Tzurif terrorist Hamas cell they now hold.

Such flip flops don't help. As veteran Fatah activist and Jerusalem Times publisher Hanna Siniora told me this week, the Palestinians think that Prime Minister Netanyahu's security demands are just "posturing for Israeli public opinion."

This is the challenge facing Netanyahu today: If he succumbs to pressure from the Clinton administration and turns his back on Palestinian violations, as he did when he pushed through approval of the first further redeployment, he will lose whatever credibility he has left as a serious negotiator.

When Secretary of State Albright visits, the temptation will be great to confuse a temporary pause in the bloodshed for serious compliance.

Ha'aretz reported last Friday that Israeli police sappers were called in by the Palestinian Police to destroy explosives and weapons confiscated from civilians in Gaza. I hoped that this was a sign that Arafat had finally crossed the security cooperation Rubicon and was ready to tackle the serious security issues.

Unfortunately the police spokeswoman said that the report was wrong. The PA isn't giving Israel illegal weapons to destroy - only explosive material which they don't want to risk disposing of themselves.

A bomb may not have gone off here for a few weeks, but the guns and grenades, the militias and the terrorist infrastructure are all still out there. Ignoring these facts today may mean never rectifying this most dangerous situation. As Siniora warns, "If Netanyahu cries wolf too many times people eventually will not believe him."

The writer is director of IMRA (Independent Media Review & Analysis.)

Back to school

The first day of the school year, and the run-up to it, were characterized by the usual ritual of strike threats and arguments about big-ticket budget items like the "long school-day." For a day, the nation is focused on education like on a tidal wave that hits the country, or like a massive military operation. The Education Ministry even set up a "command center," which issued running reports on which schools were opening and which on strike.

But by today, Day 2, the politicians have all made their proclamations on the importance of education, the back-to-school shopping spree is over, and the massive media interest subsides. A nation of parents heaves a collective sigh of relief: the kids are back in school.

Missing from all the annual hoopla about education is almost any attention to the quality of our educational system. Even though parents, teachers, and the Education Ministry all lobbied tirelessly for a long school-day, few pause to ask whether its price tag will really improve educational quality, or mainly make life easier for parents.

This is not the first time that a "long school-day" has been tried. In the past, however, it has meant that the teachers go home at the usual time and the class are "covered" by someone whose job is essentially to be a collective babysitter. Even if the real school day is lengthened, the question is whether the quality of education will improve, the quantity, or neither.

Though teaching as a profession is slowly gaining respect and teachers are getting paid better, teachers and the schools that train them are not keeping up with current knowledge and technology, as doctors or engineers would be expected to do. Teaching techniques are not more static than medical techniques, and keeping up to date is not just a matter of integrating the latest technology into the classroom.

Many parents and teachers assume that the classic picture of the teacher standing in front of the class and lecturing for the entire period is the only way to teach. But educational research - and common sense - show that learning is greatly increased by constantly engaging students in discussion, with assignments outside the classroom, with experiments and games; in

short, with a panoply of techniques that engage the students and force them to think.

Integrating such innovation into the educational system is not just a matter of increasing training budgets, but of shaking up the training system itself. In general, while there are always underfunded areas, Israel's national spending on education is already quite high in international terms, and there is little reason to believe that the primary potential for improving quality lies in simply throwing more money at the problem.

At the school level, for example, a critical reform that does not entail higher budgets is to increase choice and diversity within the system. In parts of Tel Aviv, a system of "controlled open registration" has been introduced, allowing parents to request particular schools in order of preference, rather than automatically sending their children to a predetermined school.

Though this is a more tentative form of school choice than that experimented with in the United States with great success, here too the results have been positive. When even a small amount of choice is introduced, parents quickly learn how to find the best teachers and schools, and an incentive for innovation is created throughout the system.

Educational bureaucracies commonly resist school choice precisely because it is easier not to compete, and to place little premium on creativity and results. The arguments against school choice - that it leads to elitism and unfairness - tend to be either spurious or that such choice presents legitimate but addressable problems. There is too much concrete evidence that school choice produces a significant improvement in test scores and other measures of educational achievement to continue to allow such arguments to stymie reform.

In the United States, the teachers unions resisted school choice for so long that it took almost a complete collapse of the system before parents and legislators succeeded in introducing choice on a limited scale. We should not have to let schools deteriorate to the point that half of high school graduates in some areas can barely read, as happened in the US, before reforms that make sense are introduced on a much wider scale.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEED TO SEEK JUSTICE

Sir - The Anti-Defamation League applauds Stephen M. Flatow's appeal to Jewish leaders, urging them to speak out against the Palestinian Authority's release of terrorists, such as Nabil Sharhi, implicated in the 1995 terrorist murder of his daughter Alisa. (August 22).

We have urged the American administration to take vigorous diplomatic action to ensure that Sharhi is brought to justice and that the PA understands the seriousness with which we view its failure to punish terrorism. The fact that the United States does not have an extradition treaty

with the PA in no way precludes the administration from taking action to bring such terrorists to justice.

The need to seek justice for the senseless loss of lives, like that of Alisa Flatow, transcends any politics surrounding the peace process. If we shrink our responsibility to punish these crimes, we send a dangerous signal to extremists and potential terrorists worldwide.

ABRAHAM H. FOXMAN
 ADL National Director
 New York.

CAME TO WIN

Sir - I am writing in reaction to some of the gratuitous remarks made by Sam Orbaim (July 22), regarding Canada's participation in the Maccabiah hockey events. Of course Canada came to win. It's our national sport and anything less would signify a lack of respect for the premise of the Maccabiah games - to send our best to a world competition of Jewish athletes. Some of our hockey players are professionals. It is only reasonable that support for the players reflects this - including, if possible, professional coaches and trainers. Although neither Jacques Demers nor the trainers were motivated by Jewishness, their participation, as that of Jean Beliveau, was motivated by friendship for the Jewish people. As such their efforts should have come in for special praise.

I particularly resent the aspersions cast on the Jewishness of

their preference for the beach over the Kotel. Had a poll been taken of male members of the other teams in the same age group, the beaches of Tel-Aviv would have proven just as popular. In fact even young Israelis overwhelmingly prefer the beach to the Kotel.

The Canadian team was exemplary in the thorough and professional manner in which they participated; as were the Canadian fans who cheered for all the Jewish athletes on the ice. Mark Routenberg the manager, should be congratulated for his efforts. Had the Israelis approached their commitment to the Maccabiah games in similar fashion, Jewish families would not have been sitting Shiva in Australia during Maccabiah week.

TED QUINT

BARBAROUS MANNER

Sir - The tragic death of Princess Diana has highlighted one of the ugliest and most disgusting features of modern life - the behavior of the so-called "paparazzi."

We, in Israel, are unfortunately not immune from them. At the funeral of Sgt. Oshri Schwartz in Or Akiva on August 29, a gang of these wretches actually interfered in the funeral arrangements, to the extent that the honor guard was unable to stand near the grave. In their frantic efforts to get dramatic close-ups of the twice-bereaved mother, they trampled all over the adjacent graves - it was positively nauseating.

Hopefully, editors and publishers in Israel will refuse to print pictures obtained in such a barbarous manner.

DAVID ISRAEL
 Caesarea.

DEMOCRACY

Sir - I am writing with reference to the interesting letter from Pinchas Richard Wimberly "Democracy at Work" (Aug. 26).

Mr. Wimberly writes "The real test is does the system work," and I would just like to say that clearly Mr. Eban and Mr. Arens, who have written articles in your paper recently calling for another change in the system, are of the opinion that it does not, or at least that some change to improve it is called for.

The idea that the Knesset should only concern itself with legislation and not be able to interfere with the executive would seem to be a call for a parliamentary system to support a dictatorship. Clearly this is unacceptable in Israel.

VICTOR BLOOM

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On September 2, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that four Arabs were shot dead near Hadera. A noted Arab terrorist, Nasr Shraideh of Trans-Jordan, was shot by British police in Beit She'an. An appeal for national discipline and restraint was issued by the Va'ad Leumi

(The National Council for Palestine Jewry). There were reports of renewed anti-Jewish excesses in Poland. 50 years ago: On September 2, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that the British Government had decided to be silent on the UN Special Committee's

Palestine Report until the General Assembly debated the subject. An infant who had died on board the Ocean Vigour, one of the three British "floating cages" carrying the detained Exodus 1947 "illegal" immigrants to Hamburg was buried at sea. Alexander Zvielli

Hutus, Tutsis and Rosamund Carr

By DIANA CHAIN

Rosamund Carr recalls the time when visitors steadily streamed past her fields of yellow, blue and red flowers and found their way into her ivy-covered stone home.

An American who left the life of a New York fashion designer for Africa 47 years ago, Carr doubts that her conflict-riven adopted homeland can find its way back to peace.

The 85-year-old woman in sneakers and slacks tends to her blossoms, picking off a dead leaf here and there, worrying not for herself but for the Rwandans who work her flower plantation, and for the 74 orphans who live in a converted flower-drying shed.

"It's terrible," she said over a recent lunch after warmly welcoming some unannounced visitors. "It's very hard on the children. They are used to having visitors, and they love it."

Though peace seems a chimera in Rwanda, the one-time New York fashion designer is staying put in her adopted homeland.

Carr's hospitality is well known in Central Africa and beyond. She was a close friend of Dian Fossey and a featured character, portrayed by actress Julie Harris, in the film on Fossey's life, *Gorillas in the Mist*.

The plantation and orphanage, known as Imbabazi, or "care" in the Kinyarwanda language, sit in the foothills of the Virunga volcano range that forms the border between Rwanda, Uganda and Congo — a restive area that has been the scene of conflict for over a century.

In three months of 1994, Rwandan Hutu militants led a

slaughter that killed at least 500,000 minority Tutsis. Carr tried to protect her Tutsi neighbors at her house, but Hutu mobs frightened them into fleeing. When a Tutsi-led government took power and ended the genocide, Carr was hopeful about peace. Renewed bloodshed has ruined her optimism.

In November, hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Hutus fled past Carr's home on their way back from three years of exile in Zaire, renamed Congo after a rebellion there. They had fled Rwanda because they feared punishment for the genocide.

Carr, her employees, and the orphans also watched thousands of Rwandan Hutu militants return in April and May, ready to fight to topple the new government. Many of the rebels now hide in the forests near her plantation.

When a single gunshot went off recently, Carr said she "jumped a mile." Meanwhile, the children — Tutsis who lost families in the genocide, as well as Hutus returned from exile — only laughed. "The children don't seem to be very scared," Carr said.

Defense Minister Paul Kagame has said he will wipe out the rebels and reconcile a divided people. Government figures show that at least 1,800 rebels, 100 soldiers and 300 civilians have been killed since April. But the battle is not over.

Hutus fear that soldiers in the predominantly Tutsi army will seek vengeance against villagers they suspect of assisting the rebels, Carr said.

Her Hutu employees are uneasy, even though the soldiers who guard her plantation day and night have promised to keep them safe. All her Hutu employees insist on getting home before dark.

The cook, who lives opposite a military camp just 500 meters from the plantation, insists on leaving the earliest. "He's scared," Carr said. "When I asked him why, he said the other workers walk across the fields to get home. He told me, 'Madame, I live in front of the guns.'"

Carr is no stranger to conflict. She has witnessed rebel uprisings and genocide since coming to Africa in 1950, when she married an Englishman and set up a farm with him. They separated in 1955, but Carr stayed. She had fallen in love with the land.

The recent deaths of a young couple related to a senior government official, three local aid workers, and a family of five have made Carr lose faith in any short-term solution.



The 85-year-old former American looks out from her cottage in rural Rwanda toward an uncertain future and says, 'I am so pessimistic now.'

"I am so pessimistic now," she said, wisps of gray hair drifting across her face as she shook her head. "When the war first ended, I was so optimistic. I thought Kagame was so good. But since the return [of the Hutu militia], the killings have begun, and I don't think there will be reconciliation for a long time."

Life is deceptively calm on the grounds of Carr's 28-dunam plan-

taion. But events of the past months have left their mark. Carr's meager resources — profits from flower sales and private donations — aren't enough for the orphans, whose number swelled from 45 to 74, as aid agencies were unable to find the families of returning Hutu children.

The new arrivals brought sicknesses with them, she said. Foreign doctors from international aid

agencies who used to visit the plantation weekly no longer venture along the dangerous route to Carr's home. There is a local clinic, but the very sick must be taken to a hospital in Gisenyi, an hour's drive along dirt roads through ambush territory.

Carr said she is worried not for herself but for the children, her Rwandan friends, and the country she now calls home.



Mealtime at the orphanage Carr runs near Gisenyi: There are 74 children, too many for her meager resources.

The Kabul school where street kids learn survival

By KATHY GANNON

Dozens of barefoot street children are gathered in a classroom, learning reading, writing and arithmetic as well as how to survive in war-shattered Kabul.

The teaching aids are stark and to the point: drawings of shrapnel spitting out at a victim; a photograph of a young boy, both legs lost to a land mine.

Aschiana, a Swiss-based group whose name stands for Afghan Street Children and New Approach, knows that these students must be drilled on the dangers of land mines if they are to make it through a typical day.

Decades of war have ruined Afghanistan's economy. The children living on Kabul's streets — roughly 28,000 of them according

to a UN survey — live by scavenging for anything of value. They scrounge for spent shells and mortars they can sell as scrap metal, and for paper and wood that also fetch a price in the market. Their hunt often takes them into the war-torn neighborhoods of Kabul littered with land mines and unexploded ordnance.

Aschiana opened its school and vocational training center in 1995, using a converted two-story home. By December 1996, it had enrolled 650 street children. The school is the only one with permission from Kabul's current rulers, the Islamic Taliban army, to enroll girls — and then only those under eight years old.

All other girls' schools were closed when the Taliban seized Kabul last September. In line with

its strict brand of Islamic law, men were forced to grow beards and pray. Music and photography were banned; women were banished from the work force and the schools.

"The girls are accepted, but they are kept completely separated," said Mohammad Wardak, Aschiana's assistant director. The Aschiana teachers and staff are men.

Aschiana gives the children two meals a day, and a bath every morning. At noon the Aschiana students become street children again, collecting scrap for two hours until lunch and a final lesson.

"Some of them are the only source of income for their families," Wardak said. "They are from the poorest people. They are wood collectors, paper collectors, even beggars."

Five-year-old Najira, a typical student, gets up every morning at 5 to trudge outside her home to

collect paper. By 8 she arrives at Aschiana, where she meets her friends, has a bath and some breakfast, and starts class. "I like to draw, and I can count numbers," Najira said in barely a

whisper. Her voice gained strength as she talked about her family, the war that has ravaged Kabul, the rockets that killed her brother. They scared her, and made her hide in a corner.

Her head scarf tightly wrapped around her tiny head and her hands firmly on her hips, the little girl struck a pose somewhere between compliance and defiance as she explained that she wanted to be either a teacher or a doctor. For now, she has other work.

"Sometimes I get tired. When I do, I just sit down, and then I get up and start picking up paper again," she said.

Five-year-old Idrees collects wood. A slight boy in dirty beige tunic and pajamas, he says his biggest fear is of land mines. "I try to go far away from them," he

said. One of his classmates was absent. He had stepped on a land mine the day before. Eleven-year-old Ghyassudin told the story of his friend:

"He went to the hill to collect thorns and paper. His mother said don't go, but he went anyway. He stepped on a land mine and his foot was cut off," he said, his eyes riveted to the ceiling as he spoke.

Aschiana, which is partially funded by the European Union, brings in UN instructors who show the children how to spot and avoid land mines. Instead of swings and seesaws in its front yard, Aschiana has a small playhouse surrounded by fake land mines where the children can practice what they learn in the classroom.

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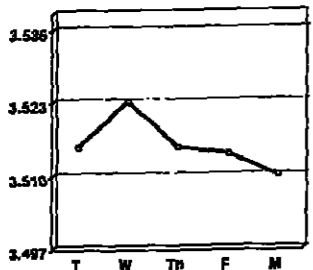
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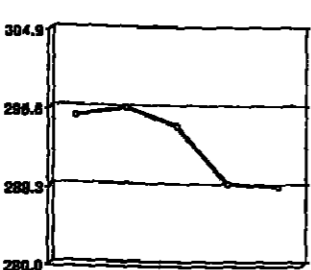
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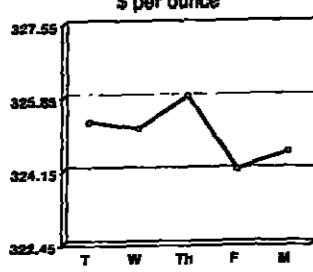
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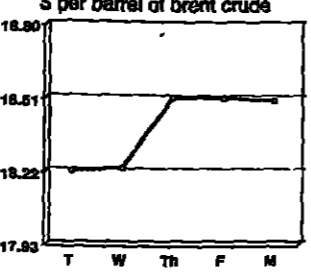
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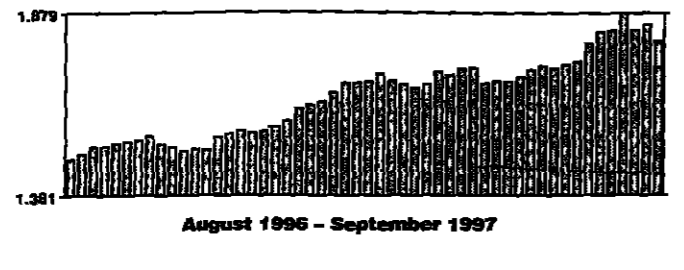
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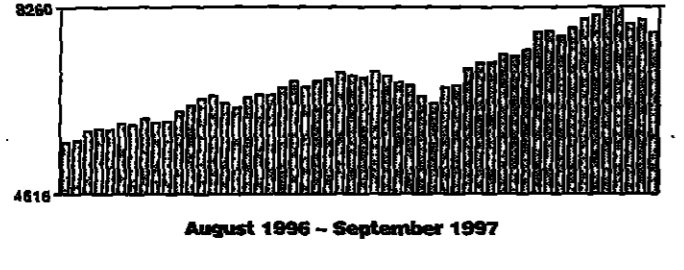
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Tourism Ministry: Ease Russian visas

Tourism Ministry Director-General David Litvak will meet his counterpart from the Interior Ministry, David Efrati, to try to make it easier for Russian tourists to obtain visas for Israel. Tour organizers have alleged that Israeli consular officials simply refuse to grant tourist visas or demand enormous deposits or guarantees to ensure that visitors leave when their tour is over. The Tourism Ministry predicts 80,000 Russian tourists will visit in 1997, a 19 percent increase over 65,000 in 1996. It was decided to open a joint office representing El Al and the ministry, to increase the number of weekly flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv and to inaugurate direct flights between Moscow and St. Petersburg and Eilat. *Haim Shapiro*

Frame relay lines now in hotels

A local company has begun installing frame relay lines and other infrastructure into leading hotels, allowing guests to use the Internet from their rooms or from personal computers in public areas for a per-hour or per-diem fee. Intournet, which also provides on-line tourist information, has begun with the 650-room Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel, the largest hotel in Israel. The Hyatt Regency in Jerusalem will be the next one to be hooked up. The Renaissance offers the service to local residents and businessmen, and not only to hotel guests. *Judy Siegel*

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August budget deficit hits NIS 1.34 billion

Foreign currency reserves reach record high of \$18.2 billion

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The August budget deficit totalled NIS 1.34 billion, compared to a NIS 451 surplus in July, the Treasury's Accountant-General Shai Talmon announced yesterday.

The government said that last month's deficit was seasonal, reflecting the payment of clothing expenses to public sector employees. Since the beginning of the year, the domestic deficit has mounted to NIS 3.42b.

In the June-August period, the budget deficit totalled NIS 4.4b., compared to a surplus of about NIS 1b. in the January-May period.

Deficit figures since the begin-

ning of the year indicate a revenue crisis, with a heavy shortfall compared to the plan, especially in Customs and VAT division revenues. This is attributed to the economic slowdown and the contraction of private consumption and the import of durable goods.

The overall budget deficit - combined domestic and foreign activities - amounted last month to NIS 1.66b., compared to a surplus of NIS 232m. in July. August's foreign deficit amounted to NIS 319m., compared to July's NIS 219m. deficit.

In the January-August period, the government's total deficit amounted to NIS 6.66b., about 66% of the deficit planned for the whole of 1997.

The government estimates that the 1997 deficit will total 3.1% of GNP, exceeding its 2.8% target.

Meanwhile, foreign currency reserves reached a record high of \$18.253b., following a \$258m. increase in August.

Following a sharp 16.5% increase in the April-July period, reserves increased by another 1.6% last month.

The Bank of Israel attributed the August increase in reserves to government transfers and changes in the banks' deposits with the Bank of Israel. The Bank of Israel has not intervened in trading and has not had to purchase foreign currency from the private sector since June 20, due to the introduction of foreign currency liberaliza-

tion measures.

From the beginning of the year to mid-June, the Bank of Israel was allowed to purchase a total of up to \$7b. in foreign currency from the private sector.

The Bank of Israel figures indicate that the reserves increased in January-August by about \$6.78b., a rise of 58.5% since December. The shekel was revalued against the currency basket by a total 0.41% in August, further to a 2.73% revaluation in July.

Against the dollar, the shekel was revalued in August by 0.73%, further to a 1.31% revaluation in July.

The currency basket presently stands 0.73% above the lower limit of the fluctuation range.

Ravitz: Canceling yeshiva funds would cause crisis

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) warned yesterday that a coalition crisis would erupt if the government implements a reported Finance Ministry plan to do away with financing for yeshivas.

"If this plan effects the next budget and if the thinking is that the government won't fulfill its coalition agreement, then there will be a crisis," Ravitz said in a telephone interview from Argentina.

Ravitz noted that his party belongs to the coalition "and the government should support the yeshivot."

The Finance Ministry declined to comment.

The plan being protested by Ravitz is part of a blueprint by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, disclosed last week, for increasing the rate of employment in the haredi community.

It calls for the IDF to enlist 60,000 to 70,000 haredi youth for one month's duty, after which they would be free to either study or work.

Neeman predicted that many haredi youth would enter the work force under such a plan, because they would no longer have to fear forfeiting military exemptions.

Currently, haredim enrolled in yeshivot are exempted from military duty, but those who work face mandatory conscription.

Neeman said that only 10% to 15% of yeshiva students are prodigies, while most study at the yeshivot to avoid serving in the military.

Ravitz took issue with figures. He said that "studying is our ideological existence. No one can tell us that's wrong."

He called it crazy to think that 70,000 yeshiva students would forgo studies to enter the work force.

Ravitz said he supports the idea of haredim working after several years of study, as long as the government pays to train them.

He said he would discuss the issue with Neeman when he returns to Israel later in the week.

Meanwhile, Neeman is investigating reports that haredi yeshivot are inflating their enrollment figures to make them eligible for more government funds.

The annual budget earmarked for the yeshivot totals NIS 850m. for 1997, 40% more than last year.

According to the Religious Affairs Ministry, the number of students enrolled in yeshivot increased by 25% this year to 194,000.

Neeman has alleged that the figures exceed natural population growth.

Ravitz said that if the allegations of inflated enrollment figures were true, then such actions "must be stopped."



Tiger no longer?

Investors confer with each other at the Thailand Stock Exchange in Bangkok yesterday. The country's stock prices fell as investors sold off banking and finance stocks in the face of continuing decline in the value of the baht on the money markets. (AP)

Goodbye to Rehovot's golden arches

First of Israel's 46 McDonald's outlets goes bust

By Globes Business News and Jerusalem Post Staff

After 18 months in operation, the Rehovot branch of McDonald's shut its doors over the weekend, the first of the chain's restaurants to close.

Located in the Rehovot Central Mall, the fast-food restaurant, one of 46 McDonald's outlets here, closed due to a lack of profits, two

years before the end of its lease agreement with the mall.

Israel's McDonald's franchisee, Omri Padan, attributed the outlet's failure to the fact that he had been forced to turn the restaurant into a kosher branch and that the conversion had proven not to be economically worthwhile.

For years, Padan has waged a steadfast war against the Labor Ministry's attempts to close down

McDonald's outlets across the country on Shabbat, protesting closures at the lower Golan Junction and in north Tel Aviv's Ramat Aviv mall.

Rehovot Central Mall general manager Tommy Lang said that making the restaurant kosher did not help profitability.

"A kosher McDonald's branch is no great bargain," Lang said. "We decided to look for an alternative."

McDonald's still has four kosher branches here.

In February, McDonald's opened its first branch in the Israeli Arab sector. With signs in English, Hebrew, and Arabic, the restaurant is located on the Haifa-Karmiel road.

The company has 21,000 branches worldwide. Last year, it opened its first non-beef restaurant in India.

ECI: Aid cuts will cost 250 local jobs

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

If the Treasury cuts the research and development budget, ECI Telecom will consider moving 250 manufacturing jobs abroad. CEO David Rubner said yesterday.

"If we don't have the money to invest in development, the only way for us to deal with the decrease in the budget will be to decrease the cost of production," said Rubner. "In order to do this we might move jobs to India, Jordan, or England."

ECI, which receives \$15m. of the \$80m. it invests in local R&D efforts from the Office of the Chief

Scientist, previously said it would increase its Ofakim-based manufacturing facility from 200 employees today to 450.

Next week the Treasury is expected to meet to discuss the 1998 budget. Finance Ministry Director-General Shmuel Slavin previously said that all ministries will be affected by the NIS 2.3 billion budget cut slated for next year.

Chief Scientist Oma Berry said that high-tech R&D is already being hurt by a nominal drop in the amount her office received in 1997.

In 1997 the R&D budget totalled NIS 1.125b., down from NIS 1.13b.

in 1996. Berry said she needs an additional \$57m. to provide grants in compliance with the Research and Development Incentives law.

"According to the law, companies that meet certain criteria are entitled to grants," said Berry, adding that the number of requests for funding increased by 30% in 1997.

If the government does not grant the Chief Scientist's Office more money, it will not be able to award grants to companies that apply for funding in the last quarter of 1997, which would cause an "economic disaster," said Berry.

"We have to increase the size of

the pie or else we'll damage the high-tech industry beyond repair," she said.

The high-tech industry, because of the added value of technological developments, has the potential to be more economically profitable than the diamond sector, said Amiram Shore, head of the Manufacturers Association's software division.

"The software industry is growing at a rate of 20% - 25% and by the year 2002 or 2003 exports will total \$1b.," he said. "This will bring more to the economy than diamonds, even if exports total \$10b., due to the high added value."

Siemens buys 10% stake in Floware

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The public communications division of Siemens AG, the Munich-based electronics giant, yesterday announced that it purchased a 10% stake in Floware System Solutions Ltd.

The price was not disclosed, but sources close to the deal said it was less than \$10m.

Floware, a privately held telecommunications startup founded last year, will provide Siemens, Germany's largest elec-

tronics and engineering company, with a system that connects companies to public telephone networks via radio.

"For us this is a very important agreement," said Yuval Sovinsky, Floware's vice president of marketing and sales. "We're the fly and they're the elephant."

Floware, which has not recorded any sales to date, expects that the agreement, which includes a distribution, will help the startup to enter markets in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Siemens is expected to announce the purchase of a 10% holding in another company in the near future.

Siemens will use these investments to further encourage the companies to develop specific technologies. In return, the Israeli enterprises will benefit from Siemens' well developed marketing channels, a source close to the deal said.

Siemens' public communications division has annual sales of \$24.3 billion, representing 13% of the company's total sales.

Siemens established a local subsidiary in 1995.

Since then, the company has purchased Ornet, a Karmiel-based telecommunications products developer, entered a joint venture with Elscint, the maker of medical detection devices; invested in the Star venture capital fund; signed a deal with the Palestinian telecommunications company, PalTel, to plan a pilot project for wireless communication in Ramallah, and won a bid to participate in the construction of the Gaza Airport.

MOTORING

Changing gears

The new Mitsubishi Carisma is roomy and accessorized, but suffers from its so-called 'smart' shift



By JOEL GORDIN

The giant Japanese conglomerate Mitsubishi first started selling automobiles here in 1988. The family-size passenger car it offered, the Lancer, was such a success that when it was replaced four years later, local dealer, Colmotor Ltd., insisted on calling the replacement the "Super Lancer" to maintain the momentum. This may have been one of the reasons for the Super Lancer's popularity - more than 53,000 units were sold since 1993.

Now the Super Lancer has been replaced, but Colmotor will not call the new car the "Super-duper Lancer" as wags have suggested. It will keep the name given by the Japanese mother company: the Carisma.

The Carisma, unlike the Lancer and the Super Lancer, is not made in Japan. It is imported from the Nedkar factory in Holland, a joint venture between Mitsubishi, the Swedish company Volvo and the Dutch government. This may cause immediate apprehension among the many local buyers who believe, rightly or wrongly, that Japanese quality control is unsurpassed in the world. However, at a recent press conference, Colmotor CEO Dr. Shmuel Harlap promised that the Carisma will be subject to the same standard of quality control as a made-in-Japan automobile. Harlap pointed out that Carismas are imported to Japan from Holland. "They combine the best of Japanese reliability and European safety and style," he asserted.

At the same press conference, Mitsubishi executive Katsumi Suzuki stated that Japanese personnel worked hand-in-hand with the Dutch at the factory and that Mitsubishi Japan stood behind every automobile produced.

The Carisma is available only with a 1.6-liter engine, but in seven versions. The prices are advertised as starting at NIS 78,000, but this refers to the manual version, which there will be a small demand for in Israel. The automatic versions start at NIS 82,000, rising to NIS 86,900 for the GLX Star version, which I tested. The Star has two front airbags and almost the entire gamut of electronic gadgets. What's missing is an ABS braking system, which will cost an extra NIS 4,000.

Compared to the Super Lancer,

the Carisma has a more streamlined, modern-looking body. The high, round rump works its way down to a flat, chunky front end, finished off by two angled, triangular-shaped headlights. The whole effect is an automobile that appears much larger and much grander than a mere family-size, 1.6-liter model.

This impression continues when you open the doors. There is ample, comfortable sitting room for five adults - not merely four adults and a child as is the case in most cars of this class. The Carisma is the roomiest automobile in its price range.

The designers have made a brave attempt to get away from the cold, spartan, plastic dashboard typical of most Japanese cars. On the other hand, they may have leaned too far in the opposite direction - I found the Carisma's dash somewhat cluttered and fussy. The designers have also stuck their neck out with the upholstery, which is decorated with trendy patterns. This is all very nice, if you like the designs.

The interior comfort accessories include four power windows, electrically controlled side mirrors, central door locking, an immobilizer, a rev. counter and controls to open the trunk and hood from the inside. Safety accessories include two front airbags, a reinforced passenger compartment, steel rods in the doors to protect against side collisions and a collapsible steering wheel.

The large (460-liter) trunk is fitted with a useful net to hold small parcels and prevent them from being thrown around. A utility box is fitted between the seats, to supplement the glove compartment.

The Carisma's engine has the same specifications as the Super Lancer: 16 valves, 1,597cc generating 113 horsepower at 6,000 r.p.m.

The difference is in the four-speed "Invecs 2" automatic shift which is the "smart" type that adapts to the individual style of each driver. It is the same gear found in the upmarket Mitsubishi Colt and Galant. This gear is able to "read" the characteristics of the driver, i.e. to discover from the amount of braking or pushes on the gas pedal whether the driver prefers a sporting or economic mode. For "sporting" drivers each gear should be held longer, for "economic" drivers, the changes should be more frequent.

I was not impressed by the "Invecs 2," which seems to be weighted in favor of the solid or

slow driver. In practice, I found that the computer was slow to "kick-down," i.e. to lower a gear to allow the driver to increase revs to either climb a steep hill or to accelerate. At some stages, while trying to build up revs to climb an incline, I had to resort to changing the shift manually down to drive no. 2 or to drive no. 3 - gears that should only be used to brake the engine.

The adverse effect of the "Invecs 2" on the acceleration can be shown by the figures: the Carisma accelerates from 0-100 km/h. in 13.6 secs compared to the Super Lancer's 12.5 secs. The Carisma accelerates from 80 to 120 km/h. in 11 secs, compared to the Super Lancer's 9 secs. On the plus side, the gear changes smoothly and quietly.

It's a pity the Carisma's performance is stymied by the gear because the suspension is soft and comfortable and the road-holding is tight and secure. Another bonus is that the Carisma's gasoline consumption figures are excellent - I calculated an average higher than 14 km/l.

The Lancer and Super Lancer always had a good resale value, thanks to their popularity. The Carisma should be no different - the car is being sold at the rate of 50 a day.

The Carisma's bonnet-to-bonnet rival is the new Toyota Corolla, which costs NIS 89,500, with ABS braking as standard (the Carisma costs NIS 90,900 with the optional ABS). The Corolla is sleeker and has a more attractive interior, although looks, of course, are a matter of opinion.

The Corolla, unencumbered by the "Invecs 2" gives a more sporting driving performance. In contrast, the Carisma is larger, more comfortable and has a wider range of accessories.

MITSUBISHI CARISMA GLX STAR
ENGINE: 1,597cc
HORSEPOWER: 113 at 6,000 r.p.m.
TORQUE: 14 at 5,000 r.p.m.
GEARS: automatic
ACCELERATION: From 0-100 km/h. in 13.6 secs.
MAXIMUM SPEED: 196 km/h.
GASOLINE CONSUMPTION: 14.7 km/l. in town; 9.1 km/l. at 90 km/h.
PRICE: NIS 86,900

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

4.9 Some 1,000 participants, 200 of them from abroad, are expected to attend the four-day 14th European Conference of Narcotics Anonymous, which opens this week at the Haifa International Congress Center. The conference, which will be conducted in English with simultaneous translation into other languages, includes lectures and workshops, several of which will be open to the public. The overwhelming majority of those attending are former drug addicts who have been clean for relatively long periods of time.

11.9 Opportunities for high-tech companies to expand their horizons will be disclosed by representatives of Ernst & Young, Wilson Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati, VentureOne, Sequoia Capital, U.S. Venture Partners, Partech International and Broadview Associates. This seminar, the first in a series on The Venture Capital-High-Tech Entrepreneur Journey, will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv.

14.9 A seminar on bi-national trade has been organized by the Australia-Israel New Zealand & Oceania Chamber of Commerce, together with the Israel Export Institute and the Federation of Israel Chambers of

Commerce, to coincide with the visit here of an Australian Trade Mission led by Charles Goode, chairman of the ANZ Banking Group. The seminar will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv.

25.9 Some of Tel Aviv's leading personalities will be among the alumni convening to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Tichon Hadash (the New High School). The festivities will be held at the school, now known as the Yitzhak Rabin High School, located on 81 Namir Road. The party will serve as a platform for the establishment of the Tony Halla Memorial Fund in honor of the school's founding principal. The fund will forever link her name to the institution to which she devoted much of her life.

28.9 A Neeman Institute survey indicates that there is an immediate need for 3,500 electronic engineers and computer science graduates in high-tech industries. In response, Focus Ha'aretz, in conjunction with Computer People and Software Ltd., will host a seminar at Gan Oranin Tel Aviv, on the Manpower Shortage in High-Tech. Speakers will include top executives from companies such as Intel, Motorola, Telrad and Sivan.

An Israeli soap opera

An unassuming local skin-care chain has proven that even in today's fiercely competitive global market, the small guys still stand a chance

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Three years ago few people were aware of Body Shop, a small and unpretentious Israeli natural skin-care chain. While the company already had 16 stores across the country, none were doing well and losses were growing at an alarming pace. But the chain has been upgraded and updated, and today it is a thriving and profitable business which brought in NIS 15 million in sales in 1996 and promises more this year. Three new stores are opening in the next few months and brand awareness is increasing.

Ironically, what brought about this transformation was a clash with a giant.

It seems unthinkable, but two years ago Body Shop Israel, part of Fisher Pharmaceuticals Inc., Israel's largest skin-care company, went into a trade-name battle with a seemingly unstoppable multinational titan - The Body Shop International - and won, despite the fact that the whole concept of the Israeli chain had been taken from the international one.

As a result of this unusual victory, the British-based multinational, which has 1,500 stores in 47 countries around the world, and which earned £622m. in 1996, cannot open so much as a stall anywhere from Eilat to Naharia. This is the skin-care equivalent of Israel's tiny MacDavid Hamburger chain preventing burger giant McDonald's from operating in Israel.

While the Israeli chain has clearly beaten its larger rival, this is no ordinary David vs. Goliath story. Instead, this is a tale that could grace the storyline of many a daytime soap.

According to a Body Shop Israel advisor, who did not wish to be named, the story began in 1984 when two Israelis from Haifa approached the highly successful British chain, owned by Anita Roddick, and asked if they could franchise a store in Israel. Roddick refused, but the two men decided to go ahead anyway. They opened a store in Tel Aviv and, using the same concept as their British competitor, began selling natural skin-care products made from vegetable and mineral ingredients that hadn't been tested on animals. They brazenly called it Body Shop.

Over the next 10 years, as The Body Shop International set about conquering the world, Body Shop Israel grew at a more modest rate. Products were manufactured in Haifa and a chain of countrywide stores emerged gradually. The owners could not, however, sustain the growth and by 1994 the chain was losing hundreds of thousands of shekels a year.

That year, Dani Bar-On, who was then marketing manager for Fisher, noticed the ailing retail chain and realized that it could make a useful strategic addition to Fisher's empire.

"Chain stores were just developing in Israel and though Fisher sold through 6,000 points of sale, it didn't have its own chain," says Bar-On, who is now general manager of Body Shop and co-owns the chain with his wife.

He was in a dilemma, however. He knew of the British chain store, but was also aware that Body Shop Israel had built up a reputa-

tion using that name.

Bar-On approached the British company and after negotiations, he claims they agreed that Fisher would buy Body Shop Israel, give trade-name rights to the British chain, and open a string of franchises in Israel.

Fisher bought the Israeli company in the summer of 1994 but, in an unexpected about-face, Bar-On

signed with Jordan that they decided to open here," he says.

When the information turned up in court, and began to leak to the international press, the battle turned nasty says the advisor. In an unprecedented move, the controversy-ridden British chain store sued Bar-On, Dr. Eli Fisher - owner of Fisher - and their legal representatives, Liad

stores are to open across Israel before 2000.

In the last two years, the Israeli chain has made a determined effort to create a different identity from its rival. Shops now look pleasantly rustic with lots of pine shavings, unlike the British chain which opts for a sophisticated dark-green interior, with plenty of posters about saving the rain forests, homelessness or whatever cause the shop is supporting.

It has introduced 200 new products, created and manufactured mostly in Fisher's laboratories, and has several new lines including Green Point natural toiletries, Alpha Treat skin-care products containing alpha hydroxy and sun-screen factors, and Body Guard sun-screen products.

The company is also exploiting natural resources. A new line of 40 skin and hair-care products called Genesis is made from Dead Sea minerals. "It's an important line for us. Apart from Jordan, no one else has the Dead Sea," says Bar-On, clearly meaning his British opponent does not have the Dead Sea.

"Our products are very different from the British chain's. Upside-down different," emphasizes Bar-On. "In Israel, we have eight months of sun, unlike Britain. Our products are more suited to this climate."

All this said, however, there are still obvious similarities. From the round green logo, reminiscent of Roddick's famous Body Shop logo, to the brightly colored, fruit scented soaps, to the line of aromatherapy oils to the peppermint foot lotion. The UK chain also has its own sun-screen line.

Bar-On's defends his chain. "The concept doesn't belong to The Body Shop International alone. They have no rights over it. Everyone's getting into natural products. It's a global issue."

With The Body Shop International out of the way, it would seem that the Israeli chain has the market to itself. Of course there are competitors such as SuperPharm, but so far Body Shop is the only chain concentrating solely on natural skin-care products - a range that is likely - if Israel follows international trends - to increase in popularity as people move toward environmentally friendly goods.

The only foreseeable problem is that Body Shop Israel cannot export abroad using its name. Neither Bar-On, nor his father-in-law, Dr. Fisher, seem unduly worried. "We're already exporting our products abroad under the Green Point name," says Dr. Fisher.

"We're thinking of opening other sites abroad under a different name," says Bar-On. "We can sell our products anywhere. We've become very successful. People know us."

And what of the British chain? Can the rest of the world make up for the loss of the undoubtedly lucrative Israeli market?

"In deciding to terminate the litigation, (we) chose not to pursue trading in Israel," says Talbot. "Of course, it's unfortunate that we are currently unable to trade in Israel, which we believe to be an excellent potential market, the sole reason we sought to trade there initially. However, as an international retailer, trademark issues can occur with any major successful brand expanding into new markets."



says the British company reneged on the deal.

"We were stuck with 16 stores we didn't know how to run," complains Bar-On.

Concerned, he hired the services of a retail chain-store consultant and by the end of 1994 a 10-year turnaround plan had been put into operation. One of the first tasks was to shut existing shops and open alternative ones with a different image at new sites.

But, in November 1994, the British chain dropped another bombshell. It suddenly opened a store in Rishon LeZion without telling anyone.

Fisher promptly got an injunction and within a week the store had closed. Body Shop Israel sued for breach of contract and the use of its trade-name. The Body Shop International counter-sued.

In preparation for the suit, the British chain sent a box of information to Israel. It was a fatal blunder, according to the Body Shop Israel's advisor. "Documents there showed unequivocally that the chain had made a strategic decision not to enter the Israeli market because of the Arab boycott. It was only when peace was

Whatstein and Shlomo Cohen, for libel. "It was a debacle," says the advisor.

Then, just as unexpectedly, in June 1995 the British chain withdrew from the case and paid out hefty compensation and damages to Body Shop Israel.

In light of this development, the court ruled that in Israel the trade-name belongs to the Israeli Body Shop, while outside of Israel, it belongs to the British chain.

"My interpretation is that the English chain knew that it was going to be harmed if it became public knowledge that it had complied with the Arab boycott so it decided to pull out," says Bar-On.

In response to all these claims, Phil Talbot, a spokesman for The Body Shop International said: "These issues were the subject of a case which as far as (we) are concerned, was settled in June 1995 and the matter closed at that time. In general, the company does not comment on matters which have been... the subject of litigation."

For Body Shop Israel, winning the court case gave it something more than just a name - it put it on the map. Today there are 16 new stores, and another 14-19

BITS & BYTES

WITH JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

BRM invests \$2.25 million in IP-Highway. The BRM group has announced a \$2.25m. investment in IP-Highway, an Internet development start-up. As a result of the investment, BRM is now a partner in the company. IP-Highway aims to develop infrastructure technology for the Internet that will allow Internet providers to offer advanced Internet and intranet services.

ComView raises \$2m. ComView Graphics, Ltd., a manufacturer of multimedia turkey systems for the advertising industry, raised \$2m. from the Israel Private Equity Fund L.P. and Comsor Investment Fund. The financing completes a financing round of \$3m., following an April closing of \$1m. from private investors. Based in Herzliya, ComView creates multimedia solutions.

Investment Center announces \$9.5m. in investments. The Investment Center of the Ministry of Industry and Trade recently announced that it has approved \$9.5m. in investments in 20 high-tech projects. The center approved projects in the data communications, Internet and retail software fields. Among the recipients are Efrat Technologies, Motorola Israel, Point of Sale

and Tadiran Spectralink.

Iris to release solution to computer virus. Iris Software recently announced that it will offer a solution to the "One-Half" virus within the next two weeks. After a 2 1/2 year hiatus, the "One-Half" virus has returned striking five companies in Israel and overseas. The virus hits the hard disk, but only reveals itself once half the disk is erased. Text on the screen then appears reading "Dis is one-half." Iris's free solution will be available from the Internet at www.irisav.com.

Memco software selected by EDS. Memco Software Ltd., a developer of information security software, recently announced that EDS will offer several Memco products. EDS, a leader in global information services, will distribute Memco's security products in some 42 countries. Memco's products are designed for business security concerns.

Minix wins NIS 400,000 contract. Minix won a NIS 400,000 contract to provide the Defense Ministry with computer equipment. Minix, one of the five top suppliers of computer equipment in Israel, is a subsidiary of the Sintec group.

Power Design raises \$3.5m. Power Design, a maker of components for the telecommunications market, raised \$3.5m. in a second round of financing. Ampal, Vertex and private investments made the placement. Jerusalem Global managed the transaction. One year ago, the company raised \$2.4m.

RIT receives \$440,000 order from Telecom Argentina. RIT Technologies recently announced that it received a \$440,000 order from Telecom Argentina for its telecommunication network technology. The contract is the third order RIT has received for its PairView product, which is designed to provide telecommunication providers with a more efficient way of managing copper-line infrastructure.

VocalTec raised to 'outperform.' Lehman Brothers raised VocalTec Communications rating from "venture" to "outperform." Last week, Deutsche Telekom bought a 21 percent stake in the Internet telecommunications company. On Friday, the company's Nasdaq-traded stock closed at \$23.875, up 20% from the previous day, when the purchase was announced.

New pick-up lines

Pick-up trucks evoke images of cowboys and country & western ballads and are a staple in many rural areas of the US. This explains the macho-sounding name of the new Mitsubishi pick-up, the "Magnum."

For Israeli "urban cowboys," modern pick-up trucks can fulfill a variety of roles. The owner of a top-of-the-line pick-up can simultaneously enjoy a working truck with a loading platform that can either be left open or covered; a comfortable passenger car with seating for five (in the double cabin) and a four-wheel-drive vehicle that can hold its own in the backcountry with the best of the "yuppie jeeps." And if the owner is an independent businessperson, he or she can enjoy the tax breaks that accompany a recognized commercial vehicle.

The choice between diesel and gasoline engines, automatic and manual shift, single and double cabins and two-wheel and four-wheel drive.

The cabins have all the electronic gadgets that come with any modern passenger car while the four-wheel drive versions have such refinements as a differential lock.

At the low end of the price scale is the single-cabin version with manual shift, two-wheel drive and a 2.5-liter diesel engine generating 75 horsepower. It sells for NIS 75,128 (before VAT). The most expensive Magnum has a double cabin, automatic shift, four-wheel drive and a 2.5-liter turbo-diesel engine generating 100 horsepower. It costs NIS 107,607 (before VAT).

Toyota, as yet, does not have a diesel version with automatic shift but it's only a matter of time. By the end of the year, local Toyota dealers, Union Motors, will import the latest version of the Hi-Luxe in as many variations as the Magnum.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table with columns for company name, price, and change. Includes companies like Al Paper Mills, Adco, and various banks.

% percentage points

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

Table with columns for company name, price, and change. Includes companies like ATX, Axiom, and various industrial firms.

Main table of financial data with multiple columns for various companies and their stock prices.

Main table of financial data with multiple columns for various companies and their stock prices.

TASE little changed; Nikkei at 4.5-month low

Israeli stocks were little changed after two trading days of losses as investors waited for US trading to begin after the Labor Day weekend. Gaining shares included Koor Industries Ltd., Israel's largest publicly traded industrial company...

Mark falls against dollar ahead of rate decision

The dollar rose against the mark amid expectations Germany's benchmark securities repurchase rate would be left unchanged at its record low at today's Bundesbank tender.

Oil prices down after delay in Iraqi shipments

October Brent crude oil prices fell, after brokers' expectations, as concerns grew that fourth-quarter supplies could be boosted if the United Nations allows Iraq to defer some oil it couldn't sell this quarter.

Precious Metals

Platinum prices rose and palladium prices fell in London intermediate delivery rose \$3 to \$440 an ounce. Palladium for immediate delivery fell \$1.50 to \$189.50 an ounce.

Coffee

Coffee futures rose to their highest level for almost two weeks amid concern a strike by workers at a Brazilian port could disrupt coffee shipments and that the strongest El Nino weather pattern this century could damage crops in Indonesia.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES: Jerusalem: Shoshan Pharmacy, 42 Agripas, 624-6484; Baysan, Salah E-Din, 627-2315; Shufat, Shufat Road, 581-0108; Dr. Arkava, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.

Table with columns for company name, price, and change. Includes companies like Yara, Yon, and various industrial firms.

South Africa debates \$2 billion arms deals with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

By RICHARD MEARES

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South Africa's first politically correct government has got itself in a tangle as it tries to sell deadly weapons without getting its hands dirty.

After plans to sell arms to Rwanda, Syria and Turkey ran into fierce criticism, fresh controversy now surrounds what would be two of the country's biggest arms deals, worth more than \$2 billion, being hammered out with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

When he defeated apartheid in 1994, President Nelson Mandela found himself with a powerful and technologically advanced state arms industry which had been built up to keep the blacks down. "We inherited a Frankenstein," his arms-control chief Kader Asmal once said. But it was too lucrative an inheritance to shun, despite its unsavory origins.

Now, on state visits abroad, Mandela appears at arms shows and sings the praises of products tested on apartheid's foes in neighboring states, and in raids on the liberation movements.

Howitzers, attack helicopters, land mine-resistant vehicles and other state-of-the-art niche products earned more than a billion rand (\$200 million) last year, for a country needing cash to help meet the high expectations of a long oppressed underclass.

It is the most successful manufacturing export sector behind the largely foreign-owned motor industry - but accounts for just a third of one percent of a trade dominated by the US.

Mandela ignored calls for an end to sales but, trying to marry high idealism with realpolitik, demanded moral rules.

The guidelines of the National



Nelson Mandela. Too lucrative an inheritance to shun. (AP)

Conventional Arms Control Committee (NACCC), aimed at cleaning up an industry that under apartheid sold to many a vile regime, sound laudable. But it is having trouble sorting out the good guys from the bad.

The rules bar arms sales which could escalate conflict, harm human rights, aid terrorism or damage South African interests.

Government critics, in both pro and anti-arms lobbies, say it is far

critical to bring morality into the deadly business.

Opponents say the whole Middle East, a priority sales area, is a conflict zone and a no-go area - complaining it is just the latest example of how the guidelines have been ignored.

Sales of equipment to Rwanda, approved then blocked because of the war in neighboring Zaire, are now on again, despite rising turmoil in the country where hatred

between Tutsi and Hutu lives on.

Another major deal, for giant state arms maker Denel to sell Syria \$650 million worth of sophisticated guidance systems for Soviet-made tanks, came to naught this year after US anger.

A reported plan to sell Turkey Rooivalk (Kestrel) attack helicopters, admired for their unsurpassed maneuverability, was blocked, approved and blocked again.

Asmal, NACCC chairman, said last year that trade with Iran, Kenya and the Koreans was under review, while Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Sudan and Zaire were blacklisted.

Algeria and Malaysia are on a brief list of approved buyers. Ethical restrictions and government indecision have limited potential sales for Denel, some 700 smaller arms-related firms and Armscor, the state body that helps market their goods.

Competitors step in gladly, but Asmal defends his policies.

"Contradictions are an occupational hazard in any policy seeking decency in a murky world like arms transfer," he said. "The only policies that would not involve contradictions would be cynical, full-scale supply to all who seek arms from us or a pacifist position."

But Defense Minister Joe Modise, an ardent advocate of a trade which provides 50,000 jobs, worries about its future.

"We have imposed restrictions on ourselves that have impacted negatively on sales," the former military leader in Mandela's African National Congress said in August.

"I am very doubtful of the future of the defense industry if we are going to carry on as we are."

Modise is a very keen salesman. He flew to Kuwait to plug a deal for G6 155mm self-propelled

howitzers worth hundreds of millions of dollars and is also playing a key role in trying to sell Saudi Arabia similar big guns worth an estimated \$1.5 billion.

Fresh US figures show arms sales grew last year, for the first time since the end of the Cold War, to \$32b. - a third of it by US firms. Next came Britain - itself pledging to clean up its sales criteria on moral grounds - then France and Russia.

Denel earns about a billion dollars a year but aggressive marketing since 1994 has raised its share and nudged it up to 50th place in a world league led by Lockheed Martin Corp.

Isolation led to the apartheid industry's growth by triggering an embargo in the 1960s that stopped South Africa buying from its traditional suppliers in Western Europe.

In a quarter of a century the industry grew to the 10th largest in the world, reputedly developing nuclear technology.

Armscor tried secretly to sell weapons abroad, breaking sanctions and triggering a US ban on arms and military technology trading only now being lifted.

That should boost an industry dependent on exports, now that defense budget cuts, and the military's new freedom to shop abroad for better deals, have depressed home sales - and, industry sources say, dented South Africa's technological edge.

"We have 0.3 percent of the world trade in arms. If we can double that to 0.6%, which is infinitesimal, you could create another 50,000 jobs," said Ron Haywood, executive chairman of Armscor which aims for such growth by 2000. "There is no other sector in the manufacturing industry that has the potential to create jobs as quickly as we can."

AT THE AUCTIONS WITH MEIR RONNEN

Christie's to sell Schotz studio

Christie's Glasgow is to sell the contents of the studio of the renowned Scottish Jewish sculptor Benno Schotz (1891-1984) on September 24.

The sale comprises more than 250 works by Schotz executed over a period of 65 years, as well as furniture, rugs, books and a few works by other artists, some of the sculptor.

The Schotz sculptures are in a wide variety of mediums: stone, plaster, wood, terra cotta, bronze, cement, and plastic metal, with estimates ranging from £100 to £8,000.

Schotz came to Glasgow from Estonia at age 20 and his work is to be found in institutional buildings and churches throughout Scotland. He was Sculptor in Ordinary to the Queen for Scotland. Schotz also exhibited in

emphasis on the text: it depicts a scholar contemplating a mountain landscape. Over 2m. high, it has an estimate of \$80,000 - \$100,000.

Years ago, while visiting a calligraphy show at the old Freer Museum in Washington, I fell in with a frail little Chinese man in a frayed suit who looked like a retired short order cook. Admiring a poem written by the great Wen, I pointed out to my new acquaintance that his signature was the most beautifully written part of the work. "Not surprising," said the little Chinese, "look at the date." I was mystified until he continued: "Wen was around 80 when he wrote this. He had been signing his name for six or seven decades. No wonder it is more developed than the other characters..." Ah.

Looser and livelier paintings on paper by great Chinese masters in



Tinplate magic lantern to be offered by Sotheby's at its sale of optical toys in London, September 30

Israel. His son Amiel made his home in Beersheba.

CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK will hold a major single-owner sale on November 10 when works by Picasso, Johns, Rauschenberg, Stella, Hesse and others, all from the collection of the late Victor and Sally Ganz, are expected to go for \$125m.

The collection comprises more than 115 paintings, drawings, sculpture and major prints, many purchased directly from the artists. No sooner married, the Ganz team bought their first Picasso in 1942 and assembled one of the most important groups of the master's work in private hands. Twelve Picassos are on offer at this sale, covering almost every phase of his oeuvre.

Ganz inherited a costume jewelry business but he and his wife were devoted heart and soul to collecting 20th century and American contemporary art. They also served as advisors and benefactors to a number of museums and educational associations. Sally Ganz continued this work after her husband died in 1987; she died last January.

SOTHEBY'S NEW YORK launches a week of Asian art and furniture sales this month, much of it from famous private collections. A fine group of Chinese paintings and calligraphy from the C.C. Wang family collection will be sold September 22. First to catch my eye was a beautiful painting in ink and color on silk by my favorite calligrapher Wen Zhengming (1470-1559), though this one does not place any

this sale have much higher estimates. Snowy Mountain Landscape, a handscroll on paper by Shen Shzhou (1427-1509) whose style I suspect influenced both Hokusai and Hiroshige centuries later, has an estimate of \$300,000 - \$350,000. A delightful zigzag vertical composition by Shi Tao (1642 - 1708) is expected to go for at least \$250,000; its compositional device was later used in all Japanese pillar prints, with bits of the scene going in and out of the borders.

The following day Sotheby's will sell a magnificent carved wooden Ming Dynasty figure of Guanyin (\$80,000-\$150,000) and some Tang Dynasty ceramic demons, as well as very fine furniture, notably wonderful Chinese wooden armchairs.

LESS WELL known but fascinating items of Korean painting and objects from the estate of Marcus W. Scherbacher, a career diplomat who served in the young Republic of Korea between 1945-58, will be offered by Sotheby's New York on September 26, together with items from other collections, one of them a notable celadon long-necked bottle from the Koryo Dynasty, 12th century (\$200,000-\$250,000), property of a private San Francisco collection.

CHINESE ITEMS of a much different character and vintage are featured in a sale of tinplate magic lanterns and other toys and optical apparatus, to be held by Sotheby's London on September 30. The catalog can be ordered by phone (44) 171 314 4444.

EU competition watchdog wins new clout

By FREDRIK DAHL

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Commission, increasingly tough on corporate linkups that may damage competition, will soon get even wider powers in determining whether mergers are in line with European Union antitrust rules.

EU industry ministers, seeking to ease red tape for businesses, agreed in April to change the bloc's merger regulation to catch more corporate alliances that would otherwise need to be cleared in various member states.

The new rules, which will take effect in March 1998, will further increase the commission's role to include the review of mergers which do not now fall within its jurisdiction.

This should be good news for industry, which often prefers the "one-stop shop" procedure of the commission to seeking regulatory approvals from several national competition bodies, an often costly and lengthy process.

"It is a great deal more work involved, I think, going through seven or eight national merger authorities, than just going to the commission," said Stephen Kinsella, managing partner of law firm Herbert Smith.

While competition policy lawyers are happy that the commission is getting more say over mergers, they are critical of the complexity of the new rules.

Industry ministers, reluctant to cede too

much power to the EU executive, agreed to a tricky formula involving turnover thresholds in the world and European markets, as well as in individual EU member states.

"In general terms, the revision of the thresholds is a welcome change, although they are becoming rather complicated," said David Harrison of the law firm Allen & Overy in Brussels.

The widening scope of the merger regulation comes at a time when the commission is becoming more assertive in exercising its considerable powers in the competition area, not even hesitating to block mergers it fears would harm fair trade.

This was evident in July when EU competition commissioner Karel Van Miert brought the EU to the brink of a trade war with the US, threatening to block the merger between aerospace firms Boeing Co and McDonnell Douglas.

He eventually cleared the deal, but only after wringing key concessions from the two U.S. giants to address his anti-trust objections.

Since the merger regulation came into force in 1990, the commission has blocked eight mergers and demanded changes to many others before allowing them to proceed. However, most deals are cleared after one month without any strings attached.

Van Miert has long lobbied for extending the scope of the regulation, complaining that some deals with EU-wide impact fall outside Brussels' competence.

Under present rules, the commission eval-

uates linkups where the companies have a combined worldwide turnover of five billion European currency units (\$5.5b.) or more, and where each firm has an EU turnover of at least 250 million Euros.

However, handing over more powers to Brussels is a sensitive issue in EU member states, and an attempt by Van Miert in 1993 to lower the turnover thresholds was blocked.

He returned with the proposal in 1996, but EU industry ministers meeting in Luxembourg last April only grudgingly agreed to a limited widening of the application of the merger regulation.

Law firm Linklaters & Paines noted that it was the result of a "long battle between the commission, supported by business, pressing for an extension of commission jurisdiction under the merger regulation, and member states trying to preserve the competence of their national competition authorities."

Under the new rules, a merger which falls below the present turnover thresholds will still need to be reviewed by the commission if it meets all of the following criteria, designed to catch link-ups affecting at least three EU states:

- The combined aggregate worldwide turnover of all the firms concerned is more than 2.5b. Euros;
- In each of at least three member states, the combined aggregate turnover of all the companies involved is at least 100m. Euros;
- In each of the three member states, the

combined turnover of each of at least two of the undertakings concerned is more than 250m. Euros;

• The aggregate EU-wide turnover of each of at least two of the undertakings concerned is more than 100m. Euros.

The new thresholds are undoubtedly more complex than a simple reduction would have been," said Allen & Overy's Harrison.

"But, to the extent that they are going to result in more cases being notified to Brussels rather than being subject to the costs and complications of dealing with several jurisdictions, their introduction is a positive step."

Other EU competition lawyers take a similar line, saying the amendment to the merger regulation would be beneficial for business, but that it would have been better if the turnover thresholds had simply been cut as the commission wanted.

"I suppose you would say it is a step in the right direction in that most of us would feel happier to see the merger regulation catch more transactions," said Kinsella at Herbert Smith.

"So most companies and therefore most of their lawyers would say that it is a small step forward but it is not a major improvement."

Van Miert has estimated that the change of the turnover thresholds would lead to about 10 more cases being reviewed by the commission annually. This compares with 131 notifications it received last year under the merger regulation.

Wealthy Taiwan resists IMF's 'developed' label

By JAMES PENG

TAIPEI (Reuters) - Despite the world's third-largest output of computer goods and the third biggest foreign exchange reserves, wealthy Taiwan cautiously rejects being labeled an "advanced" economy.

The International Monetary Fund recently reviewed its country classifications and lumped Hong Kong, South Korea, Israel, Singapore and Taiwan, together with the industrialized nations, into a new enlarged grouping called "advanced economies." Singapore swiftly said it was not qualified.

Taiwan is also not ready, analysts and officials said. "We are still not a developed country, either in terms of per-capita gross national product, or levels of liberalization or internationalization," Economics Minister Wang Chih-kang told Reuters recently.

Taiwan's 1995 per-capita GNP stood at \$12,396, compared with the US's \$27,551, Singapore's \$28,666, and Japan's \$37,048, government statistics show.

Taiwan's per-capita GNP amounted to \$12,872 in 1996, and was expected to rise by only slightly more in 1997, officials said.

Wang said Taiwan will achieve a per-capita GNP of \$19,000 in 2000. "We hope to become a developed country in the year 2000," he said.

Officials say Taiwan still boasts the kind of growth associated with developing economies, with its 1997 gross domestic product growth rate projected to hit more than 6 percent.

Advanced economies have a relatively small GNP growth - on average 2.3 percent in 1996.

Analysts said the rejection is understandable because joining the rank of developed economies would mean losing some privileges and shouldering more international obligations.

"Taiwan, like Singapore, probably would not want to be billed as a 'developed economy,'" said senior economist Wu Hui-lin of the Chunghua Institution for Economic Research, an independent think tank.

"Because once you are in the rank, you have to bear more international responsibility and can no longer enjoy some preferential treatment," he said.

"For example, if you upgrade China to be one of the developed economies, it will be the end of China because once it is deprived of all preferential treatments given to it by other countries, it would lose its competitiveness," he said.

Some economists, however, argue that given its relatively large output of technology goods and large foreign exchange holdings, Taiwan qualifies as one of the

advanced economies. The island's information industry production - including computer hardware, software, and peripherals - grew 28.1%, to reach \$24.174 billion in 1996 from a year earlier, next in size only to the United States and Japan.

Its foreign exchange reserves hit \$90.03b. at the end of June, the world's third largest after Japan and China.

A rapidly growing high-tech industry is the key to increasing Taiwan's standing in the world of advanced economies, business executives said.

"Taiwan's industrial development has entered a new period - focusing on certain industries with niches, such as electronics and petrochemicals," said Winbond Electronics president Yang Ding-yuan.

"It's no surprise that these industries will represent the biggest piece of Taiwan's industrial output pie because many traditional industries either have moved offshore or are jumping onto this money-making train," Yang said.

One Taiwan official said recently that Taiwan's high-tech industry will account for 40% of the island's \$300 billion in annual manufacturing output in 2000.

Despite those impressive achievements, Taiwan still has a lot of catching up to do, analysts said.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS					
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.780	5.000	5.375		
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000		
Yen (10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (1.9.97)					
	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.7289	3.7940			3.7534
U.S. dollar	3.4849	3.5412	3.42	3.60	3.5120
German mark	1.8201	1.9511	1.88	1.98	1.9347
Pound sterling	5.5985	5.6888	5.50	5.77	5.8570
French franc	0.5705	0.5798	0.58	0.59	0.5748
Japanese yen (100)	2.8830	2.9296	2.83	2.88	2.9040
Dutch florin	1.7049	1.7324	1.67	1.71	1.7178
Swiss franc	2.5354	2.5711	2.29	2.41	2.3482
Swedish krona	0.4408	0.4480	0.43	0.46	0.4441
Norwegian krona	0.4642	0.4717	0.45	0.48	0.4674
Danish krone	0.5042	0.5124	0.48	0.52	0.5080
Finland mark	0.6390	0.6483	0.62	0.68	0.6430
Canadian dollar	2.5098	2.5503	2.46	2.58	2.5304
Australian dollar	2.5457	2.5888	2.50	2.63	2.5878
S. African rand	0.7404	0.7524	0.67	0.78	0.7489
Belgian franc (10)	0.8301	0.8482	0.91	0.96	0.8370
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7289	2.7730	2.68	2.82	2.7492
Italian lira (1000)	1.9871	1.9989	1.98	2.03	1.9827
Jordanian dinar	4.9153	4.9846	4.85	5.18	4.9344
Egyptian pound	0.9800	1.0800	0.99	1.08	1.1063
ECU	3.7742	3.8351			3.8017
Irish punt	5.1950	5.2428	5.07	5.32	5.2129
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2754	2.3122	2.23	2.36	2.2898

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without THE JERUSALEM POST

British sport marks Diana funeral by cancelling events

LONDON (Reuters) - British sport will come to a standstill on Saturday to mark the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, it was announced yesterday.

As soon as Buckingham Palace announced that Diana's funeral would be held on Saturday at Westminster Abbey, sports organizations throughout Britain hastily assembled to thrash out details of the postponements.

Cricket's NatWest Trophy final at Lord's, between Warwickshire and Essex, has been put back 24 hours to Sunday after the England and Wales Cricket Board held emergency talks and consulted Downing Street.

English soccer's premier league would have been inactive anyway due to England's World Cup qualifier against Moldova the following Wednesday at Wembley, which will go ahead.

But the Football League has postponed all division one, two and three fixtures as a mark of respect for the late Princess.

Scottish football chiefs are holding talks with FIFA, UEFA and the British government to decide whether the World Cup qualifier against Belarus in Aberdeen should go ahead on the day of the funeral.

The Scottish Football Association (SFA) cannot cancel the group four fixture without the approval of world soccer's governing body FIFA.

A spokesman for the SFA said: "We will consult with the international committee and take whatever further advice may be necessary with Her Majesty's government, FIFA, UEFA and our opponents Belarus before any decision will be taken."

A FIFA spokesman said any request for postponement would go before the Executive Committee for discussion in Cairo today.

Saturday's rugby union program has also been called off. Officials confirmed there will be no competitive league fixtures. European Conference matches involving British clubs have also been postponed.

The British Horseracing Board announced that no race meetings will take place on the day of the funeral.



Powering through
British No. 1 Greg Rusedski serves to Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic on his way to a 7-6 (7-2) 6-2 6-2 fourth round win at the US Open yesterday. In the women's singles, fourth round, top seed Martina Hingis of Switzerland beat Argentine Florencia Labat 6-0 6-2 and No. 10 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain put out Aussie Rachel McQuillan 6-1 6-2. On Sunday, unseeded former champion Andre Agassi and second seed Michael Chang moved closer to a semifinal clash with convincing third-round victories. Agassi, who skipped this year's first three majors, stamped himself a legitimate title contender with a 6-2 6-2 6-4 win over Australian doubles star Mark Woodforde and Chang dominated the first two sets, then held on for a 6-1 6-3 7-5 win over 72nd-ranked Sargis Sargsian of Armenia. (Reuters)

Hap. TA, Hap. Haifa complete import deals

By DEREK FATTAL

Hapoel Haifa and Hapoel Tel Aviv both secured transfer deals involving foreign players yesterday. The Tel Avivians have signed 27-year old Croatian Mario Mesterovic, the former Hajduk Split midfielder, who has been plying his trade most recently in Spain's second division. Mesterovic is expected to play for the Reds this coming weekend against league leaders Maccabi Haifa.

Hapoel Haifa have closed terms with Russia's Dmitri Olivanov from CSKA Moscow. Olivanov joins Haifa on a year-long contract and is expected to make his debut against Beter Jerusalem.

Round three of National League play will be completed with the meeting between Hapoel Beersheba and bottom-placed Maccabi Petah Tikva which kicks off at 19:00 tonight.

Maradona's drink may have been spiked - manager

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Diego Maradona's manager said yesterday that the wayward Argentine soccer veteran may have tested positive for cocaine after being given a spiked drink.

"It is so simple...a little drop, a glass of water or a sweet containing the substance," Guillermo Coppola told local television.

Coppola insisted his friend had sworn to him that he had not taken cocaine, and that if Maradona had reverted to his well-documented old habits, he would have noticed.

"He shows no evidence of any alteration in his heartbeat. There are things which really allow us to show that Diego is in perfect shape," said Coppola, who was himself jailed briefly on cocaine charges last year.

Maradona's fifth comeback was on the verge of ending in shame last Thursday when the Argentine Football Association announced he had failed a random drug test after scoring a penalty in his first match of the new season for Boca Juniors.

The 36-year old hero of Argentina's 1986 World Cup triumph faces years of suspension if the result is confirmed in a second test scheduled for tomorrow.

IOC to probe campaign for 2004 Games

By ADRIAN WARNER

LAUSANNE (Reuters) - Olympic chiefs yesterday condemned recent bomb attacks on 2004 Games bidding cities Stockholm and Athens, calling them the actions of "crazy criminals."

At the same time, International Olympic Committee (IOC) vice-president Marc Hodler said the IOC would investigate the campaigns of the five candidates - the others are Rome, Cape Town and Buenos Aires - for any irregularities.

"We will be talking to the cities to make sure everything was correct or not," Hodler said. The probe will be carried out after a winner is announced on Friday.

"There have been so many rumours that it is important to get things clear." A series of arson attacks and explosions at sporting venues in the last few months has hurt Stockholm's campaign. On Sunday a gas canister bomb caused minor damage at the Greek National Olympic Committee building in Athens.

Nobody has been injured in the incidents but IOC director general Francois Carrard said: "These are criminal actions and there is no justification of any kind. They have been made by crazy criminals. They should be strongly condemned." A shadowy group with the sinister name of "We Who Built Sweden" has claimed responsibility for the Swedish attacks and bid head Olaf Stenhammer has hinted at foreign involvement.

Hodler said it was not new for the IOC to investigate campaigns. But he said that this time there had been a great deal of speculation about the instigators of the bombings as well as the regular rumors of corruption.

There have often been accusations in the past about corruption among members of the IOC during the bidding process.

The IOC is keen to make sure no rules were broken.

Hodler denied a German media report that he had said he feared that the bidding process had not been completely correct.

He said more IOC members had visited all the cities than ever before - between 70 and 80 per cent.

Asked if he thought the attacks could have an influence on the IOC vote, Carrard said: "It is extremely difficult to know how the members will react."

"Some might want to avoid some places where they feel there could be some violence. Others might want to show that they do not want to be intimidated by any form of terrorism." Members of the Swedish bid committee have been putting on a brave face in Lausanne, suggesting that the attacks might even help their chances of winning Friday's vote since IOC members will show determination not to give in to violence.

LOCAL SCENE

Eytan Orbach's silver pays dividends

By HEATHER CHAIT

His silver medal at the European Championships in Sevilla will make Eytan Orbach NIS 15,000 richer, a bonus from the Elite Sport Unit.

The swimmers who reached the finals, Yoav Bruck and Vadim Alexsew, will each receive NIS 5,000.

Another silver medal came Israel's way at the University Games in Sicily when Mickey Haika finished second in the 400 meters individual medley in 4:28.18.

This was the first medal for ASA, after 44 years in the Universiade. The team returned home yesterday.

Tennis: Despite its exclusive reputation of being an all-white sport, tennis is really for everyone. To prove this, there is the annual "All in the Family" tournament. For the 16th consecutive year, the competition will be held with nine categories, including father and son, mother and daughter, husband and wife, siblings and grandparent and grandchild. The event will be held at the Hapoel Tel Aviv courts between September 14-28 and prizes of four flights overseas are at stake.

Registration is until September 4 and costs NIS 70. Call (03) 5178844/(03) 5172112.

Cricket: How the mighty have fallen.

Last year's league champions, Ashdod A, ended their season ignominiously when a defeat by Yeruham sent them straight to Division B in 1998.

Yeruham scored 105/2 in the penultimate round of the season against Ashdod's 103 all out. Other first division results saw Beersheba A beat Netanya by one wicket.

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Scores: Beersheba A: 130/9 (D. Moss 3/25), Netanya 129 and Lions Lod crushed Netanya by 273 runs, scores: Lions 382/9 (Y. Nagavkar 150, I. Masil 78), Netanya 109 (Navaskar 5/27).

In Division B, Eleven Stars made 82 to beat Beersheba B's 69, Ramla scored 224 against Dimona A's 161 and Lod made 286/6 (A. Vaskar 134) to subdue Petah Tikva on 221.

Other results were Ramla's 64/2 against Beersheba B's 63 and Dimona C's 159/7 against Dimona A's 156.

Golf: This week's high scores on the Caesarea course were the result of the little roll on the fairways and the tees being pushed back.

Winning the two best ball stableford competition were Shlomo Avnaim, Eli Segev and father and son Dudley and Liron Kessel with 85 points.

Five strokes back at 80 were Rina Levy, Shlomo Ferman, Ruth Chet and Aviva Dankner. On 80 also, but with an inferior back-nine, were Uri Shani, Eldad Hasson, Shlomi Assayag and Tony Krystal.

Orienteering: Competing is everything. The team of Israel's best, Matan Naftali, Noam Ravid, Daniel Gutman and Dan Chezik, competed in the world orienteering championships held in Grimsna, Norway, last month.

Competing against not only professionals, but also tackling Norway's treacherous mountains and forests, the team failed to pass the qualifying rounds in the 8200 meters and 3700m routes.

In the relay event, the team took 26th place, beating strong teams from South Africa and Holland. The Scandinavians dominated all the categories.

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Pete Rose Jr. finally catches up with dad

CINCINNATI (AP) - Pete Rose spent a career pursuing Ty Cobb. His son has spent much of his life pursuing Pete Rose.

When Pete Rose Jr. makes his major-league debut for the Cincinnati Reds today, both chases will be complete.

Pete's debut isn't about baseball, so it doesn't really matter whether he gets four hits or none. It's about a father-son relationship that will overshadow everything, as it has for most of his life.

When the public address announcer calls his name during introductions, Pete will literally follow in his father's footsteps as he jogs to third base.

Once there, Pete will stoop and scribble "4,192" in the dirt with his right index finger, then circle it - a tribute to his father's most famous hit. The stadium will swell with the throney chant that was the background score for his father's greatest moments: "PETE! PETE! PETE!"

Finally, when he comes to bat for his father's team wearing his father's number, he will dig his cleats into the very spot where 12 years ago his father dug in and lined an opposite-field single for baseball's hit record.

In the stands, mother Carolyn Rose will stand, clap and wipe away tears, exactly the way she did at some of her former husband's greatest moments. And there in the front row will be the Hit King, the man who made all of this entirely possible and absolutely necessary.

Will he smile like a proud father? Will he be the stoic as ever? As Pete Jr. - yes, that's what he's still called - levels the bat toward the mound, everyone in the stadium will hope he comes through just like dad would: a little hit, a little daring, a little dirt flying from a headfirst slide.

This isn't about baseball. It's about a relationship.

From his earliest years, Pete has lived in his father's shadow - sometimes happily, other times not. As a one-year-old, he was featured on the cover of the Reds' 1971 media guide, wearing a miniature uniform with No. 14.

When Pete was leading the Reds to World Series titles in 1975 and 1976, Pete was hanging around the clubhouse, playing catch with the other players' sons.

When Pete stroked hit No. 4,192 on Sept. 11, 1985, to pass Cobb on the career hit list, Pete went on the field - wearing No. 14, of course - to hug his dad.

And when Pete went off to prison for tax evasion, Pete went there to visit. While Pete settled into his banishment from baseball for gambling, Pete settled into an unremarkable and, until now, unsatisfying career.

Pete finally got his callup at age 27; by that age, Pete had won NL rookie of the year honors (at age 22) and the first of his three batting titles.

Pete was obsessed by baseball; Pete is dedicated to it. Pete lined single after single out of his low, closed batting crouch; Pete struggled to hit in the low minors out of a spread-out stance that is much different from his dad's.

Pete wanted to be the first million-dollar singles hitter. Pete wanted the chance to get a single in the major leagues.

Pete wanted to be the greatest hitter of all time; Pete just wanted his time.

Pete has survived a broken marriage, a prison sentence and the lifetime ban from baseball. Pete has lived with the fallout.

Trampolining to be included in 2000 Games

LAUSANNE (Reuters) - Trampolining is to make its Olympic debut at the 2000 Games in Sydney and women's water polo is also close to being included, officials said yesterday.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) approved the inclusion of trampolining among the gymnastic events and also confirmed that slalom canoeing would take place at the Games.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER - Premier League result last night: Bolton 0, Everton 2.

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Oilers top Raiders in Tennessee debut

Bucs upset 49ers; Aikman cuts through Steelers' defense

NEW YORK (AP) - The Tennessee Oilers' first game was a rousing success on the field, if not in the stands.

In the wildest game of a wacky, high-scoring opening day in the National Football League, the Oilers got 216 yards rushing from Eddie George. But they needed a vintage drive led by Steve McNair capped by a 33-yard field goal by Al Del Greco to beat Oakland 24-21 in overtime in the first NFL regular-season game played in Tennessee.

In three games in which both coaches were making their debuts, Bobby Ross, Dick Vermeil and Pete Carroll came away winners over Dan Reeves, Mike Ditka and Kevin Gilbride, respectively. Only 30,171 fans showed up at the 62,000-seat Liberty Bowl in Memphis, and many of them wore Raiders black and cheered for Oakland. But a few Oilers who came out for a curtain call after the game found an apprecia-

tive audience.

Del Greco's field goal with 8:03 left in overtime ended the game after a 60-yard drive in which McNair completed passes of 21 and 10 yards and scrambled for 11 more.

George, last season's offensive rookie of the year, had 216 yards rushing in 35 carries, the second-highest total on opening day in NFL history behind O.J. Simpson's 250 yards for Buffalo in 1973.

George appeared to have given the Oilers, who moved from Houston this year, a victory when he burst 29 yards on a third-and-5 play with 2:04 left, then bulled in for a 2-point conversion for a 21-14 lead.

But QB Jeff George took Oakland downfield and tied the game with a 16-yard scoring pass to Tim Brown, who caught eight passes for 158 yards and three TDs. Jeff George was 21-for-37 for 298 yards.

Rams 38, Saints 24

Lawrence Phillips ran for a career-best 125 yards and three touchdowns, one short of his rookie-year total, and the host Rams forced five turnovers to spoil Ditka's return and make Vermeil's a success.

Phillips, limited to two carries for 3 yards by a sore left knee in the preseason finale, had 26 attempts Sunday, and he scored on runs of 1, 25 and 5 yards.

"I think the whole team wanted to come out and perform for coach Vermeil," Phillips said.

"Everything started clicking." Ditka, 57, returned after a four-year absence in the broadcast booth, and Vermeil, 60, coached for the first time in 14 years.

Drew Bledsoe ran Carroll's offense with precision, throwing touchdown passes to four receivers in the first half and leading New England to an easy victory over Gilbride and visiting San Diego.

In the first half, the Patriots scored on five of six possessions, while the defense recovered two fumbles, forced four punts, sacked Stan Humphries three times and allowed no points. Humphries left with a dislocated throwing shoulder in the fourth quarter.

Bledsoe completed 26 of 39 passes for 340 yards.

Carroll "comes in, he's got a big smile on his face," Bledsoe said. "He makes you feel excited about taking the field. He makes you feel you can have some fun."

Lions 28, Falcons 17

Defense got the Ross era off to a winning start at the Silverdome as Stephen Boyd returned a fumble for a touchdown and set up the winning score with an interception, spoiling Reeves' debut with Atlanta.

Linebacker Reggie Brown returned an interception 38 yards for an insurance touchdown with 3:57 remaining. It was the Lions' third interception of Chris Chandler.

Bucs 13, 49ers 6

Steve Young and Jerry Rice left with injuries, leaving visiting San Francisco without its two biggest weapons for most of the game.

Trent Dilfer threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Dave Moore, and Michael Husted kicked field goals of 40 and 54 yards to give the Bucs the victory in Steve Mariucci's debut for the 49ers.

Jaguars 28, Ravens 27

Gimpy Rob Johnson, playing in place of injured Mark Brunell, threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Jimmy Smith with 5:47 left to lift visiting Jacksonville.

Making his first NFL start, Johnson overcame a badly sprained left ankle and a 27-21 deficit, completing 20 of 24 passes for 294 yards and two touchdowns.

Broncos 19, Chiefs 3

Terrell Davis ran for 101 yards and the game's only touchdown, a sparkling 10-yard burst early in the final period, and Jason Elam kicked four field goals for host Denver.

John Elway, slugging off the ruptured biceps tendon he suffered on August 4 and a hand injury just before the half, completed 17 of 28 passes for 246 yards as the Broncos opened the season gaining 378 yards.

Jets 41, Seahawks 3

Neil O'Donnell, a bust with the Jets a year ago when they had only one victory, passed for a career-high five touchdowns as New York rolled over Seattle's rebuilt defense.

O'Donnell was 18-for-25 for 270 yards with no interceptions.

Adrian Murrell rushed for 131 yards on 24 carries.

Cowboys 37, Steelers 7

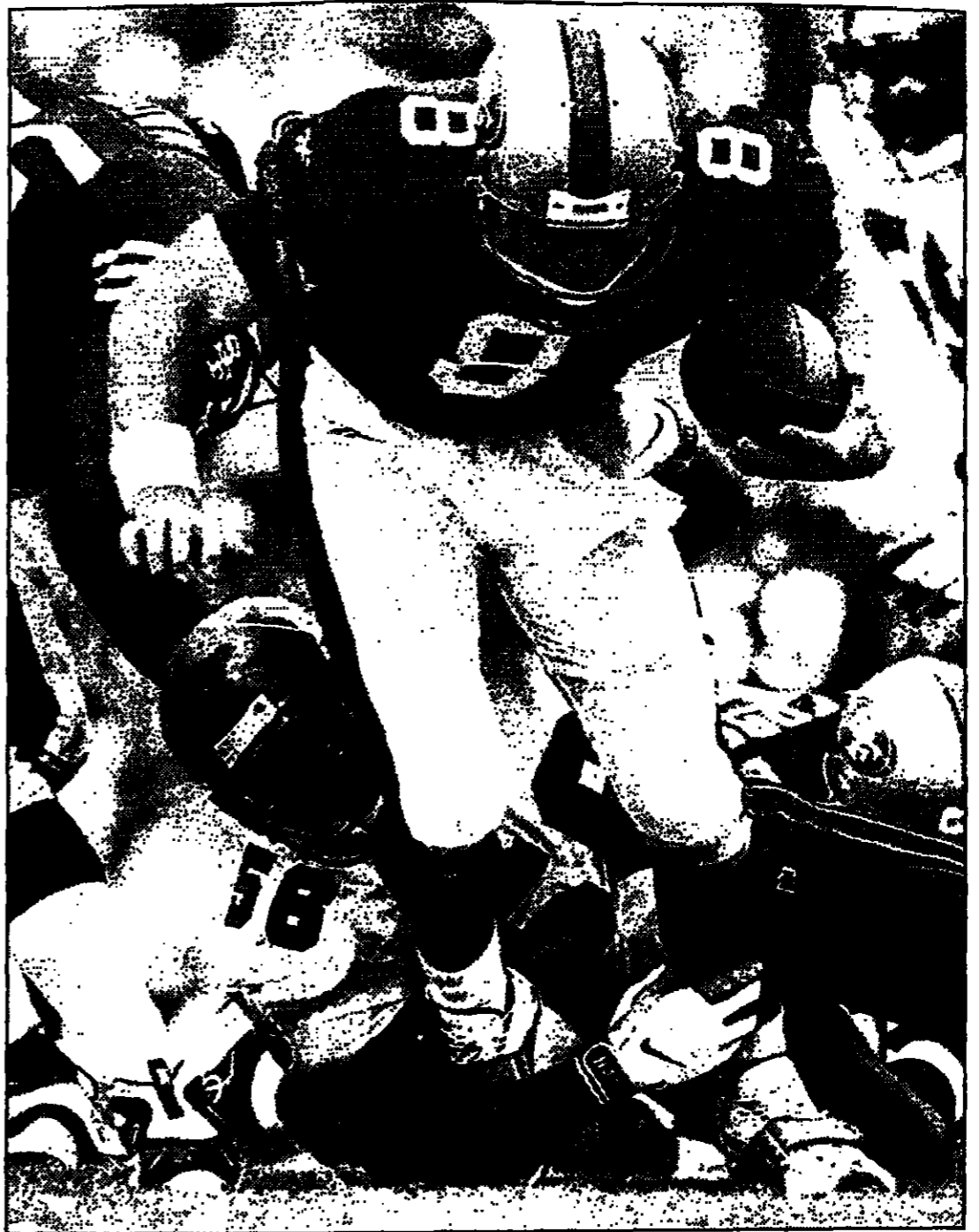
Troy Aikman, making his 126th NFL start, gave Kortell Stewart, making his first, a lesson in the art of big-play quarterbacking at Pittsburgh.

Aikman threw four touchdown passes for the third time in his career - two to Michael Irvin, who caught seven passes for 153 yards.

Aikman finished 19 of 30 for 295 yards and no interceptions in his most proficient game since he threw for four TDs against the Bills in the 1993 Super Bowl.

Bengals 24, Cardinals 21

Cincinnati scored three fourth-quarter touchdowns, the final one on a 6-yard pass from Jeff Blake to



SAD SACK - San Francisco quarterback Steve Young is sacked by Tampa Bay's Hardy Nickerson in fourth-quarter action. The Bucs sacked 49ers QBs seven times in 13-6 surprise win. (Reuters)

Carl Pickens with 38 seconds left.

Ki-Jana Carter's 1-yard run cut it to 21-16 with 2:14 left and the Bengals out of timeouts. But the visiting Cardinals couldn't run out the clock.

Larry Centers fumbled on third down at Cincinnati's 37 with 1:10 left, setting up the final drive. Blake completed three consecutive sideline passes to stop the clock and get the Bengals close.

Giants 31, Eagles 17

Tiki Barber scored on a 1-yard run and made two big plays to set up a touchdown pass in Jim Fassel's debut as coach for New York.

The Giants defense played a big role with nine sacks, and safety Sam Giamatti returned a fourth-quarter interception 95 yards after visiting Philadelphia cut a 24-3 deficit to 24-17.

Dolphins 16, Colts 10

Dan Marino struggled, but Orlando Mare kicked his first three NFL field goals and safety Shawn Wooden came up with three turnovers for host Miami against Indianapolis.

Marino, playing in his 200th game at the start of his 15th season, completed just 10 of 26 passes for 105 yards. Linebacker Elijah Alexander returned Marino's only interception 43

yards for a touchdown.

Vikings 34, Bills 13

Minnesota's Robert Smith gained a career-high 169 yards on 16 carries and broke loose on a 78-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter at Buffalo.

Vikings quarterback Jeff Brady sealed the victory when he returned a fumbled snap 30 yards for a touchdown.

Redskins 24, Panthers 10

Terry Allen, ran for 141 yards and two touchdowns as Washington handed Carolina its first loss in the 10-game history of Ericsson Stadium.

Last night, Chicago was at Green Bay.

National Football League AMERICAN CONFERENCE											
East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	16	10	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0
New England	1	0	0	1.000	41	7	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
NY Jets	1	0	0	1.000	41	3	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000	13	34	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	10	16	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-1	0-0-0	0-1-0
CENTRAL											
Cincinnati	1	0	0	1.000	24	21	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Jacksonville	1	0	0	1.000	28	27	0-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0
Tennessee	1	0	0	1.000	24	21	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000	27	28	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.000	7	37	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
WEST											
Denver	1	0	0	1.000	19	3	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	3	19	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
Oakland	0	1	0	.000	21	24	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
San Diego	0	1	0	.000	7	41	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	3	41	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-0-0

Writers: Mattingly won't reach Hall of Fame

With players like Tony Perez and Gil Hodges on the outside looking in, chances are slim for the Yankee captain who never played in the postseason

Don Mattingly has a steep uphill climb to get to Cooperstown, a Newsday survey of baseball writers found.

An overwhelming majority of those polled from the group that will ultimately decide the Yankee legend's Hall-of-Fame candidacy cited a lack of prodigious offensive numbers, particularly power numbers.

Forty-one of 54 baseball writers said Mattingly was not a Hall-of-Famer or probably not a Hall-of-Famer. That's 75.9 percent who went thumbs down for now. A candidate needs 75% of the votes to make it to Cooperstown, a reversal of what Mattingly got here.

A few potential voters suggested that Mattingly's candidacy wouldn't even be this strong if he played in another city, that New York's media machine overbuilt his legend. "I'm convinced it wouldn't even be a topic of conversation if he played elsewhere. The impression is that he had eight great seasons when he actually had two," said Sam Donnellon of the Philadelphia Daily News.

"I love the guy but no." Bud Shaw of the Cleveland Plain-Dealer said. "If he was Mr. Brewer instead of Mr. Yankee, we probably wouldn't be having this conversation."

However, there was no evidence here that the disproportionate number of New York voters will eventually push him through, or even help him. If anyone thinks there is hometown favoritism, consider Mattingly, whose No. 23 was retired Sunday at Yankee Stadium, took the collar among New York-based writers surveyed, going 0-for-6 (one said "no," five said "probably not").

A great majority of those who emphasized Mattingly's offensive numbers voted "no."

Mattingly's totals of 222 homers and 1,099 RBI were cited by a few writers as below Cooperstown standards for first basemen. Only a handful indicated they might make an allowance for the congenital back condition that sapped

Mattingly of his power in his later years.

Mattingly's great fade was cited by several. "I don't think he was good enough for long enough," said Danny Knobler of Michigan's Booth Newspapers.

"He dropped off the table in 1990," said Don Burke of the Newark Star-Ledger.

Many of those who favored Mattingly spoke about intangible assets, like his leadership and solid citizenship. One, Mark Zvolinski of the Toronto Star, who played against Mattingly in the New York-Penn League in 1979, said, "I've always been an admirer. I just think he's one of the bona fide Yankee greats, and statistically he did enough to warrant it. You've got Tino, but Don's still the standard."

Another writer who voted "yes," spoke about Mattingly's willingness to do an interview with him.

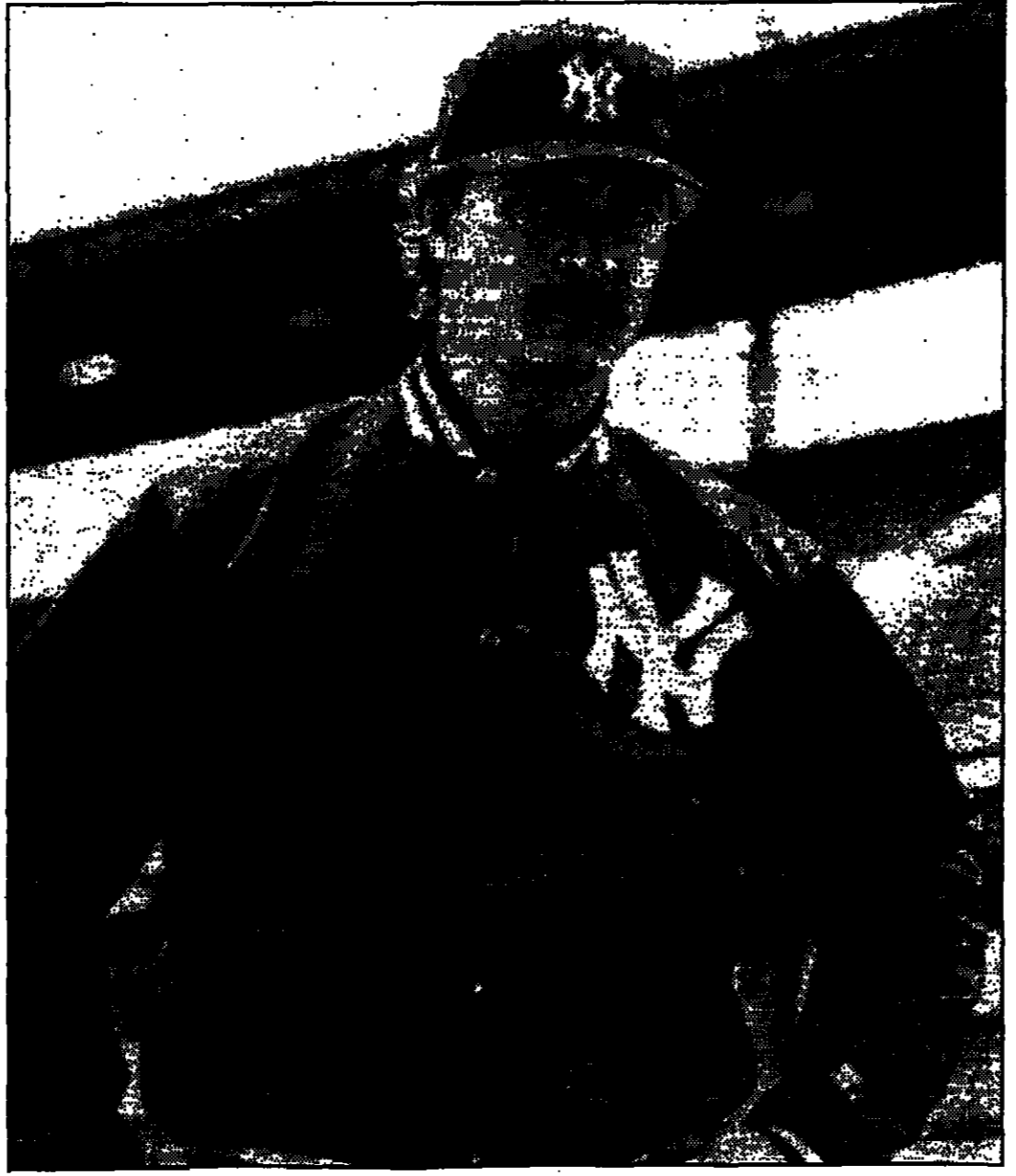
Very few writers even mentioned Mattingly's nine Gold Glove awards, but those who did were much more likely to support him. "I can't think of another first baseman who's more deserving," said Dave Cunningham of the Long Beach Press-Telegram.

With only 25% of the surveyed writers answering "yes" or "probably" to the question of Mattingly's candidacy (only three of 54 expressed unqualified support), the evidence strongly suggests Mattingly will need to enhance his reputation as an excellent player whose star faded too fast.

That's a tall order, but others have gained support with years of perspective to aid them. Ralph Kiner won only scant support initially but was elected in his 15th and final year.

Mattingly's name goes on the ballot in the year 2000, but he might have a better chance once his candidacy gets to the Veteran's Committee.

This sampling represents about 12% of the constituency since about 450 writers vote in any given year.



One argument that could bolster Mattingly is that he posted similar stats to Kirby Puckett, presumed by most to be Cooperstown-bound.

Mattingly's power numbers actually exceeded Puckett's totals of 207 homers and 1,085 RBI, though Puckett outhit Mattingly, 318 to 307.

But even those who mentioned those similarities made a distinction because of Puckett's greater consistency or his two World Series appearances. Another similarity is that both players' productivity was cut short by physical problems. While glaucoma

ended Puckett's career after 12 seasons, Mattingly was afflicted with back pain midway through his 14-year career. He continued to play, though much less effectively.

Other writers chose other comparisons, most with other players who fall short or have fallen short in the eyes of the writers/voters.

"When you see guys like Tony Perez and Gil Hodges not in the Hall of Fame, I wonder whether Mattingly's going to make it," said Jack Lang, a longtime officer in the Baseball Writer's Association. "To me the best guideline is Keith Hernandez, who got very little

support and was the equal of Mattingly. If he only got 45 votes, I don't know how Mattingly's going to get in."

"It's the Dave Stewart syndrome. He had four straight 20-win seasons. For those seasons he was a Hall-of-Fame pitcher. But..." said Peter Schmuck of the Baltimore Sun.

"With some of the guys not in, like Tony Oliva, it would be tough to put him in," said Scott Miller of the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

"If people think Jim Rice flamed out a little too fast, I feel Mattingly did too," said Jerry Crasnick of the Denver Post. (Newsday)

Tide finally turns for Aston Villa and The Owls

LONDON (Reuters) - The best of times are a distant memory for Aston Villa and Sheffield Wednesday but at least the worst may be over.

Both clubs won at last in the Premier League on Saturday, leaving Wimbledon at the bottom of the table as the only side still without a win.

Leaders Blackburn and champions Manchester United continued untroubled, both unbeaten and with United yet to concede a single goal in five matches - their best defensive start ever.

But their satisfaction was nothing compared to the relief emanating from the lower levels.

The nightmare was scariest for UEFA Cup hopefuls Villa, whose run of four defeats was their worst start to a season since a group of cricket enthusiasts started the club in 1874.

"I don't think any of us even in our worse nightmare thought it would be like this," Villa manager Brian Little had admitted earlier in the week.

The week before he had declared: "There's only three games gone and I'm not alarmed yet."

Wednesday, "The Owls" had at least a draw to their credit but that was small consolation to a club thrashed 7-2 away at leaders Blackburn on Monday night.

Last season they won their first four matches and briefly led the league.

Little, asked whether he was aware of the statistics, had said his chairman had already brought it to his attention. He added that he was joking.

Few others were, beyond the fans declaring that their club was the only one with a 100 percent record after four matches - a 100 percent losing record.

Fans - and particularly club chairmen who can remember their sides lifting European trophies, as Villa did with a European Cup win in 1982 - like winners and neither club had met that description recently.

Villa's unease was heightened by the burden of expectation after they splashed out a club record £7

million for colorful striker Stan "The Man" Collymore from Liverpool.

Collymore has been off the mark this season and should have scored against Leeds on Saturday, heading wide with just the 'keeper to beat before half-time.

Instead, Dwight Yorke brought Little a large dose of relief with his 67th-minute goal in a 1-0 win.

"Today was one where everybody knew how important it was for us to win," said Little, describing Yorke's goal as probably the most important he had scored.

"All we know is that today was important. Whether or not we've turned corners time will tell."

"But it would have looked a long way off any sort of success had we lost again today."

"There's no way we'll get carried away, there's no way we'll kid ourselves that we've cracked it yet."

Three of Villa's four defeats had been away - 1-0 at Leicester, 1-0 at Newcastle and 3-2 at Tottenham - and the home crowd's support was crucial in the second match at Villa Park after a 4-0 defeat by Blackburn.

Little said the home crowd had largely got behind the players, despite "the odd bad pass and you know, you could hear a few rumbles." He dodged assessing the team's luck, saying that he felt Villa had played "fairly well" of late.

"That was something we hung onto in the dressing room. At Tottenham especially last season you would have thought that going 2-1 in the lead we would have got something out of that game. We haven't been too bad but certainly there is room for a lot of improvement," he said.

Italian forward Benito Carbone, signed from Internazionale, was Wednesday's hero in their 1-0 triumph with a 56th-minute penalty against previously-unbeaten Leicester.

Wednesday manager David Pleat was delighted with the team, admitting that the week had not been easy.

"The 48 hours after Monday were very tricky, very tricky," he said of his players' morale.

Major League Statistics

(Through Friday's Games)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TEAM	ERA	R	H	ER	SO	SH	SV
Baltimore	3.56	1095	470	445	954	10	53
New York	3.83	1192	510	438	957	9	46
Toronto	3.95	1200	523	405	931	12	30
Milwaukee	4.29	1180	561	459	830	8	37
Anaheim	4.49	1261	602	507	848	5	34
Chicago	4.63	1238	610	488	802	7	42
Detroit	4.66	1228	611	464	779	6	33
Texas	4.70	1332	625	452	757	7	29
Cleveland	4.74	1238	608	458	841	2	29
Kansas City	4.76	1235	619	416	767	4	22
Seattle	4.94	1256	661	502	813	6	30
Boston	4.96	1327	670	514	819	4	23
Minnesota	5.01	1290	652	421	729	4	23
Oakland	5.45	1426	727	534	758	1	32

TEAM	ERA	R	H	ER	SO	SH	SV
Philadelphia	4.86	74	137	20	77	202	
Phillips	4.51	81	127	7	54	282	
DePaul	4.19	63	117	10	43	279	
Nelson	4.85	64	135	20	79	278	
ToClark	4.77	90	132	28	98	277	
Giambi	4.10	51	115	16	61	275	
YValentin	4.00	50	110	14	51	275	
Sorrento	3.78	60	104	26	69	275	
Boggs	2.98	40	82	3	19	275	
Hammonds	3.40	59	93	18	45	274	
Borritz	4.02	73	110	24	65	274	
Yermonder	3.39	43	93	7	37	274	
Damon	3.84	52	105	7	43	273	
Meares	3.66	55	100	8	48	273	
NDavis	4.19	56	114	20	63	272	
Hatzberg	2.92	37	79	8	36	271	
Girardi	3.59	36	91	1	49	270	
Becker	3.75	50	100	9	39	267	
DaWilson	4.30	55	115	12	64	267	
Esley	4.27	77	114	19	56	267	
Bella	3.71	79	142	27	98	267	
BLHunter	3.41	93	144	4	41	266	
Fryman	4.02	73	128	18	88	266	
Merced	3.48	45	98	9	40	266	
Giles	3.00	51	79	16	48	263	
Durham	5.23	85	137	8	43	262	
Toodwin	4.81	71	126	2	34	262	
Haves	3.02	37	79	11	45	262	
Palmeiro	3.16	80	135	31	91	262	
Nixon	4.01	54	105	1	26	262	
Brage	4.45	58	116	9	52	261	
McLemore	3.49	47	91	1	25	261	
Cruz	2.92	48	76	20	55	260	
Sainbark	3.81	53	99	12	49	260	
Cameron	3.75	53	76	12	49	258	
Africa	3.40	51	87	5	32	256	
HaWilliams	4.95	73	126	28	86	255	
GeWilliams	4.92	65	125	10	39	254	
Palmer	4.65	59	118	17	73	254	
Grissom	4.60	117	9	54	254		
Fielder	3.19	35	81	10	51	254	
Delgado	4.19	62	106	28	82	253	
Ogilvie	4.28	50	107	3	41	250	
Alvarez	3.85	42	96	12	34	249	
Mashore	2.79	55	69	3	18	247	
DiSarcina	4.57	45	113	3	45	247	
Carter	5.10	68	126	20	90	247	
Lawton	3.85	58	94	9	43	244	
Nieves	3.33	44	80	19	61	240	
Buhner	4.66	88	112	31	90	240	
Druez	2.84	29	82	1	29	236	
Causco	3.88	56	91	23	74	235	
Jing	4.51	69	105	19	80	233	
Sprague	4.90	43	113	14	47	231	
Spizio	4.37	40	99	10	48	227	
Snopek	2.98	27	65	5	35	218	
Burdick	4.12	48	89	5	35	216	
CGarcia	3.16	29	68	3	18	215	
Burford	3.46	46	74	6	34	214	
Brosius	4.20	54	88	10	36	210	

TEAM BATTING

TEAM	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg
Colorado	4702	762	1354	197	714	287
San Diego	4711	678	1271	126	647	269
Atlanta	4559	656	1228	141	630	269
Los Angeles	4605	685	1232	142	575	267
New York	4524	626	1202	118	599	265
Montreal	4538	581	1186	140	553	261
Florida	4463	592	1164	104	543	260
San Francisco	4573	645	1185	144	619	259
Pittsburgh	4575	591	1188	104	560	259
Chicago	4586	556	1184	103	519	258
Houston	4559	635	1174	108	584	257
St. Louis	4519	547	1156	108	517	255
Philadelphia	4392	539	1121	93	502	255
Cincinnati	4474	523	1132	115	489	252

INDIVIDUAL BATTING

Based on 315 plate appearances

PLAYER	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg
Gwynn	503	77	191	16	105	380
LWalker	484	117	181	38	105	374
Piazza	453	85	161	31	94	355
Lofton	402	75	141	5	43	351
Joyner	387	52	128	10	70	331
Alfonzo	412	66	136	9	64	330
MaGrace	461	67	148	9	60	321
Kluhovec	392	51	92	16	68	315
Galaraga	503	98	158	36	121	314
Mondesi	518	82	162	26	76	313
Bichette	473	66	148	21	101	313
Biggie	528	123	160	20	75	311
Bauer	444	77	134	15	82	311
Lawford	384	73	119	25	85	310
Castillo	517	81	158	37	94	306
Segui	380	62	116	15	59	305
Langston	479	76	146	16	60	301
Clones	506	77	152	18	102	300
Gianvill	376	66	117	3	72	298
Harandini	470	74	140	1	30	298
Mueller	391	41	88	6	37	297
Bonilla	474	63	141	15	80	297
LJohnson	321	46	95	3	28	296
Kendall	405	61	119	6	43	294
Buter	321	49	94	0	16	293
Wagner	347	36	101	4	32	291
Rolen	447	74	130	17	77	291
Snow	443	66	129	12	84	291
Ober	453	76	132	16	78	291
Bonds	502	97	131	31	82	291
Gwynn	362	48	105	6	44	290
Lopez	339	43	98	1	58	289
EcYoung	519	91	149	7	48	287
Alfonzo	451	75	129	18	98	286
DeBlasi	475	73	136	11	50	286
Baerga	391	44	112	8	44	286
Alfonzo	347	52	99	0	45	285
Javier	361	60	103	7	42	285
Haby	388	40	110	5	36	284
Bagwell	479	91	136	36	112	284
McCracken	298	61	84	3	29	282
McCracken	542	68	153	6	44	282
Caminiti	404	73	114	20	69	282
Husby	347	44	103	10	63	281
Dunston	409	45	115	9	40	281
OVeras	448	64	124	3	42	277
DSanders	515	50	126	5	22	277
Nesteria	450	70	141	3	46	276
Norris	333	42	92	1	33	276
Assmus	365	42	100	3	34	274
Henderson	388	63	79	6	27	274
Hamilton	326	60	106	4	30	273
Graizand	325	65	143	4	43	272
DeBlasi	389	68	106	11	54	272
Johnson	345	39	93	18	57	270
Clayton	438	69	118	11	49	269
RWhite	483	68	130	21	64	269
Daulton	350	61	94	12	55	269
Giambi	423	50	112	5	55	267
Strom	431	41	113	3	31	267
Burks	330	71	88	25	63	267
McGriff	480	66	128	14	74	267
Sandberg	386	49	103	10	53	267
Huntley	383	73	102	28	80	266
Vizcaino	465	66	129	4	41	266
Gagne	444	40	118	8	54	266
Orie	294	30	78	8	38	265
Kenneth	322	48	85	3	41	264
Alfonzo	512	78	132	26	89	264
Weiss	312	33	82	2	29	263
Fleury	389	33	102	8	44	262
LJohnson	470	62	123	7	57	262
MLewis	374	43	79	10	37	260
Sanchez	330	55	85	5	30	258
Lieberthal	374	51	96	19	66	257
GIFF	358	41	92	10	58	257
Gonzalez	469	59	120	5	53	256
Kent	477	74	122	26	103	256
Clayton	487	64	124	8	47	255
Wagner	390	49	99	18	68	254
Sfray	465	81	118			

GRAPEVINE

Dual role

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

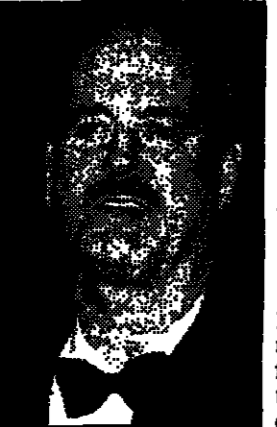
WHEN veteran Cameri Theater actor Yossi Yadin and his wife were invited to Switzerland by Geneva-based industrialist, art collector and philanthropist Bruce Rapaport to join him and his wife Ruth to celebrate her milestone birthday, Yadin wasn't sure whether he could accept. He was starting in a play and had to make sure that his absence wouldn't pose any problem for the director or the understudy. Clearing that hurdle was relatively easy, but Cameri General Manager Noam Semel was not so happy about his proposed absence. "At least see if you can get some money for the book," he said. The book in question, which was launched last Friday, is about the Cameri's first 50 years. For Yadin, the mission was not really a challenge. On the eve of World War II, he told a large audience who'd gathered for the book launching and the annual Cameri awards, the Gordonia organization had sent him to Haifa, where two of his students were Ruth Goldsmith and Baruch Rapaport, who later became Bruce Rapaport in Geneva. They had maintained contact throughout the years, hence the invitation to Ruth Goldsmith-Rapaport's birthday party. After a Sabbath repast, his host took him out on the patio to look at the marvelous view. This provided Yadin with the opportunity to put in a pitch for the book. Rapaport decided it would be his wife's birthday present and offered \$50,000 on condition that there be some mention on the flyleaf that the book was Ruth Rapaport's gift to the Cameri Theater. Yadin returned to Israel with another mission accomplished.



Israel Segal, before the barber got to him (Nitzan Gur)

she'd worked in opera in Europe, they asked whether she could also make wigs. On receiving an affirmative reply, they gave her a test assignment. When she returned to show them what she had done, they said, "Fine, but you can't work now because there's a war on. Come back in a week, when the war is over." Sure enough, a week later, she received a letter informing her that the job was hers. She's been with the Cameri ever since.

NOT exactly good taste. Yossi Sityas kept interrupting his weekend program on Israel Radio with updates about the accident in which Princess Diana and her companion Dodi Fayad were killed. Then at 4:45 a.m. someone in the station's music department decided to play a Hebrew version of the famous Paul Anka composition "Diana," which is hardly funereal in either its lyrics or its music.



John Cleese: banking on body language (U.P.P.A.)

WINNING a prize is always a wonderful thing, but, as Rami Baruch, one of the winners of the Cameri Theater's Avraham Bar-Yosef memorial prize pointed out, timing is important. His birthday was the following day. It was not the only Cameri birthday over the weekend. Estee Bar-Yosef, widow of the Cameri's founder, mentioned that her son, popular media personality and tour guide Seffi Ben-Yosef, had been born 50 years ago on Friday and was the first "Cameri baby." His father, who had been performing in a play at the time of his birth, was indirectly given the news while on stage. All the other members of the cast improvised on the text in order to congratulate the character he was playing, while the audience remained totally unaware of anything out of the ordinary.

PRIZES were awarded not only to actors but to backstage people as well. Among them was legendary

AN ERROR on the part of his barber forced Yisrael Segal, editor and co-anchor of ITV's weekend news-magazine, to part with his beard. None too thrilled with the new face in his mirror, Segal took only a couple of days to decide to grow back his whiskers. Meanwhile, last weekend saw a stubbled, scruffy-looking Segal on the small screen. The beard should start to take shape by the end of this week.

STAR attraction at the annual three-day Teimanyada in Eilat was the most celebrated recent addition to the country's Yemenite community, Tsila Levine, who came with her birth-mother, Margalit Omessi. Having established her biological connection Levine, whose fairy-tale-come true reunion with her family has gripped the country and infused new hope into the hearts of other Yemenite families searching for children who went missing 50 years ago, is now reaching out for her true ethnic connections.

IF THE face in the Union Bank commercial on Channel 2 looks familiar, it's because it is. Looking somewhat older and stouter than the hapless antihero of *Fawlty Towers*, John Cleese doesn't appear to be any more comfortable in a bank than he was in a hotel. The brief commercial is based entirely on body language. Cleese doesn't say a word, which is probably why he received a mere \$100,000 for the gig.

DEAR RUTHIE

A white wedding at all costs

By RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, I am writing you because I've got a big problem. I'm 25 and want to get married to a man who is a religious Jew. I've been with him for a year. He thinks that I'm still a virgin, but this is not the case. I have been having sex since I was 14. I'm afraid that he will discover it. Do you know if there is a medical way to repair the hymen? If there isn't, I don't know what I should do.

At a Loss for Virginity Somewhere in Israel

Dear At a Loss, Whether your hymen can be surgically restored can be clarified by a gynecologist. (Apparently, there are surgical techniques which can create the illusion of virginity.) But the fact that you are asking for my assistance indicates that it is not medical information alone which you seek.

Marriage based on false pretenses can be dangerous emotionally, especially if the lie is never detected. The person you are as a whole includes your childhood and your sexuality. But these are hidden behind shame and fear of discovery. Perhaps your assessment of this man's inability to live with a confession about your past is incorrect.

If it is not, however, you should consider the significance of choosing a man who would reject you as a mate if he found out cer-

tain truths about you. Do you consider him "superior" to you? If so, your love for him may be based on self-destructive tendencies. Or perhaps you actually view him as "inferior." After all, it is condescending to assume he is neither generous enough of spirit nor wise enough to grasp that your past may have con-

A marriage entered into on the basis of certain kinds of 'false advertising' is halachically invalid.

tributed to the part of your personality with which he has fallen in love. And viewing a mate as inferior or superior is a sure-fire formula for an unhappy marriage.

Before submitting to "corrective" surgery, you would do well to examine your motive for wanting to marry this man altogether. One last point: Since this potential spouse is a religious Jew, keep in mind that a marriage entered into on the basis of certain kinds of "false advertising" is halachically invalid.

Dear Ruthie, My mother is always getting on

my case about the way I dress. I hate to reveal how old I am; suffice it to say that I have quite a few gray hairs by now. Yet she treats me as though I have no sense of style. This problem is compounded by the fact that I still live at home. I cannot move into my own place, as she is dependent on me for financial support and for her health needs. What should I do?

Mother's Helper in Need of Help Somewhere in Israel

Dear In Need of Help, Ask yourself why your mother's opinion of your attire bothers you. If, as an adult, you resent being criticized, the solution is not to leave yourself open to such criticism. Easier said than done? Only if the real reason for your irritation goes beyond that.

A deeper reason might be connected to your being in the complicated position of playing two roles simultaneously — parent and child. Having to support and care for your mother puts you in the adult role; nevertheless, your mother is able to evoke reactions from you held over from your childhood. If moving out is not an option, you will have to work on changing the "buttons" in your gut which you allow your mother to activate simply by expressing her opinion about the way you look.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

(Real) gentlemen for hire

By JEFF DAESCHNER

Jackie Onassis had hers, and Joan Collins is rarely seen without one. Now even women-with-almost-everything can indulge in that favored accessory of the rich and famous — the gentleman escort, or walker.

A new London-based agency called A Man on Your Arm rents out "social companions" for women at a starting price of £150 (\$242). Unlike other escort services, however, the agency has a strict no-intimacy rule, ensuring that women's outings are treats without tricks.

Recruitment agency head Marlene Austen got the idea for the service three years ago, after a break-up left her without an escort for social events. A vivacious redhead, 57-year-old Austen found herself turning down invitations rather than risk the awkward silences that can turn even a tiger lily into a wallflower. "I suppose it is bred in you that you go in couples. If you look at Noah's Ark, they went in two-by-two, but one was male, one was female. It's always been a man and a woman," Austen said.

"I felt there were many gussy women around, and they should have fun. Instead of going and buying yourself a Gucci handbag, buy yourself a new accessory — a wonderful man," she added. Austen's 60 escorts are mostly self-employed professionals in their early twenties to late fifties, with interests ranging from classic cars to sewing. Some 15 languages are represented among the group. "All my men are thorough-

bred. They've all got good education, good communication skills, and they dress impeccably," she said, noting that her stable of escorts includes two barons and a count. "Most of them don't need money. They do it because they think it's a great hoot. Whereas they've normally spent [money] on ladies, the ladies are now going to take them out," she added.

Escorts can be hired for all occasions, such as dinner parties, charity balls, opera outings, and guided city tours. Some of them even go where other men fear to tread — on shopping trips. "They're all men — 100 percent men. But they love women's clothes, and they love women's fashion. So you've got the odd ones like that," Austen said.

However, the bedroom is a definite no-go area. Austen drives the point home with a half-joking threat. "Obviously, you aren't, or I'll kill you," she tells her men. "It's completely platonic. If necessary, I'll have bromide tablets made to give to the gentlemen."

Since launching her agency in April, Austen has arranged outings for women from all walks of life, including married women, widows, divorcees and lesbians. Nearly half her clients come from overseas, mainly from Italy, Spain and Latin America.

"Jackie," a British social worker in her fifties, wanted to treat herself to something special after enduring a bitter divorce. Instead of buying clothes or taking a holiday, she used some of the money from her divorce settlement to pay for lunch

and a movie with a male escort. "It was worth the money. I got a lot of enjoyment out of it — more than I would have expected," she said.

She's since used the agency twice more, to go to a musical and an art exhibition. "I've always felt that one should be able to ask a man out. Men can go to an escort agency and take women out, it should be the other way around," Jackie said.

But she didn't want to use her real name for fear her family might find out about her somewhat taboo pleasure. "I think my son and my daughter would be very worried. Perhaps my daughter less, but I think my son would feel I must be very lonely to do this," she said.

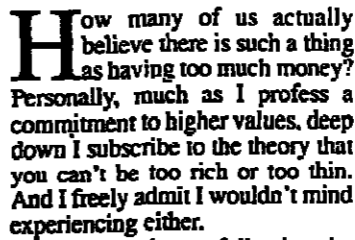
"And I would say, yes, but not that lonely. I do have a full life, and I've just come through so much that I feel I can do this." Mike, a 42-year-old actor who describes himself as "definitely the James Bond type," said loneliness didn't seem to be a problem for the four women he'd escorted. "I think they were short of a close partner at a time when they needed to be escorted somewhere. So they were filling the gap with someone with whom they knew there would be no emotional entanglement," he said.

Despite his good looks, Mike said he's never had a problem with women wanting additional nighttime services. "The women appreciate the fact that we're not going to come on to them and we're not going to give them a hard time at the end of the evening. It's not that sort of

Home Front

Family feud

By Allison Kaplan Sommer



How many of us actually believe there is such a thing as having too much money? Personally, much as I profess a commitment to higher values, deep down I subscribe to the theory that you can't be too rich or too thin. And I freely admit I wouldn't mind experiencing either.

But since I began following the saga of the Eisenberg family, I am becoming increasingly convinced that there is such a thing as being overly wealthy.

The story of this clan is proof that bad things can happen when the wrong people have too much in the bank. When big bucks get mixed up with bad blood, it can be poisonous. For those who have not been following the local version of *Dynasty*, all the public nastiness

that the public has gotten a much-too-intimate peek inside the Eisenberg mansion in Sayvon. According to the tales the pro-Erwin camp has been telling the press, the children had to obey the late tycoon at all costs. Shoul Eisenberg was a virtual dictator, from his offspring's childhood through to their adulthood.

Mama Leah was a cold Japanese woman who left a large part of the child-rearing to her cadre of Japanese nannies when the children were growing up in the Far East. When Eisenberg brought his family to Israel, the daughters spent much of their time running wild under the indifferent eyes of the hired help. Papa was away on business, and Mom was abroad doing whatever it is rich ladies do.

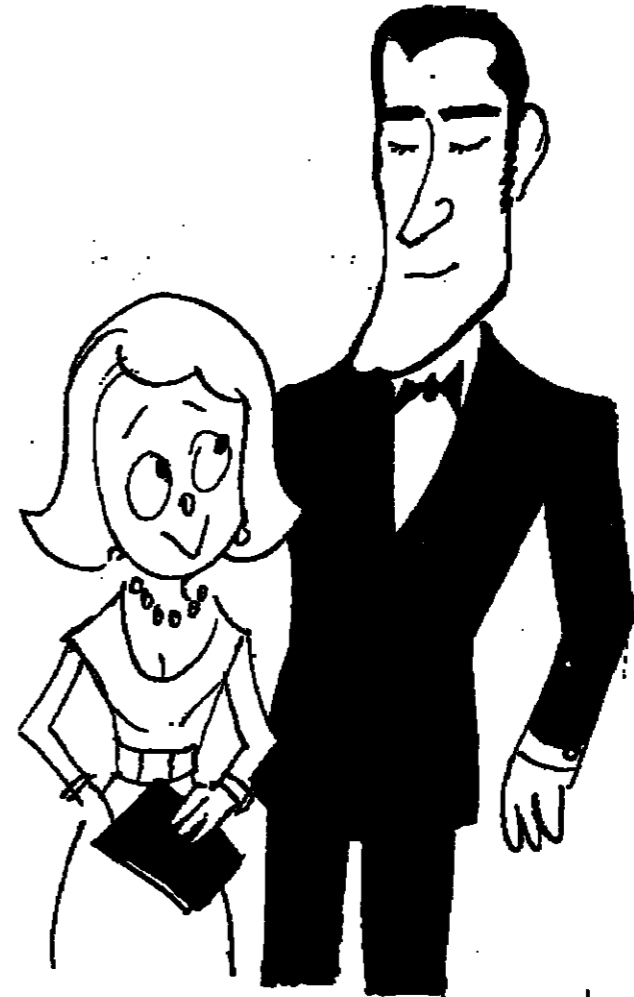
The story of this clan is proof that bad things can happen when the wrong people have too much in the bank.

began the moment tycoon Shoul Eisenberg passed away. The billionaire businessman left 80 percent of his empire to his son, Erwin, whom he deemed his successor. He left much smaller amounts to his widow, Leah, and his daughters. More than enough money for most of us to live on comfortably for the rest of our lives, but far less than the women believe was their due. One of the daughters, in fact, was disinherited.

Contesting the will, Leah and her daughters have entered into such a blatant mudslinging match

Shoul and Leah's relationship was not exactly filled with warmth and affection either, claim Erwin's allies. Evidently, the billionaire's real soul mate was his secretary, who traveled with him wherever he went.

Now every dime-store psychologist knows that at a certain point, to be a happy and healthy individual, you gotta realize that you are living life for yourself, not for your parents. But when Dad pulls the purse strings, it's not so easy to do. And when Dad enjoys yanking those strings, as it appears Eisenberg did, things get a little twisted.



MEIR RONINOTT

arrangement," he said. But Jackie admitted that she does hold out the hope of meeting Mr. Right on one of her outings. "It must be at the back of my mind, otherwise I wouldn't be doing it, I suspect." And at least one woman has

found romance with one of Austen's escorts. "Actually, I think it's a success because there will be quite good PR from it in that she'll tell her friends," she said. And, added Austen, she doesn't charge extra for romance. (Reuters)

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NEWS

of the muse

Dylan will have an audience - with the pope

Bob Dylan will sing for a very special audience next month: Pope John Paul II. The Vatican announced that the concert will be in Bologna at the World Eucharistic Congress on September 27. "This will not simply be a concert, but an occasion for the pope to meet young people," said Monsignor Ernesto Vecchi, head of the organizational committee. The 56-year-old musician was hospitalized this summer for an infection that caused swelling in the sac around his heart. Dylan was an anti-establishment trailblazer in his early years. His hits include "Lay Lady Lay," "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Like a Rolling Stone." (AP)

Genesis of a new star

He isn't famous yet, but he can sing like he is. The new front man for Genesis debuted Tuesday night before a crowd of 200 European journalists, flown in to hear for themselves how a little-known singer could possibly fill the vocal chords of Phil Collins and Peter Gabriel. Wearing a black velvet shirt and black jeans, 28-year-old Ray Wilson performed three of the group's old songs and a new one from its album *Calling All Stations*, released Monday in Germany. The group played inside Berlin's landmark TV tower, whose massive orb and spindle symbolize the city's former communist East. Wilson, an Edinburgh native who previously sang with the rock band Siltskin, said he could "never replace" Collins or Gabriel, who left Genesis for successful solo careers. In its 30-year history, Genesis has sold 90 million albums, three of them bought by Wilson long before he joined the group. Now he sings on all 11 tracks of Genesis's new album, fronting its last remaining original musicians, Tony Banks and Mike Rutherford. (AP)

Sotheby's to auction '60s Lennon letter

A letter home by John Lennon during a 1965 Beatles US tour that's up for auction reveals his guilt at being apart from his son. The letter by Lennon, who was slain by a gunman in New York in 1980, was written to his then wife, Cynthia, in England. Sotheby's auctioneers said the letter will feature in a sale of rock memorabilia in London on September 17. Lennon wrote it while the Beatles were taking a tour break at their mansion in Benedict Canyon, Hollywood. In it, he writes about his then two-year-old son Julian, telling his wife: "I miss him more than I've ever done before... I think it has been a slow process, my feeling like a real father. I spend hours in dressing rooms thinking about the times I've wasted not being with him - and playing with him - you know, I keep thinking of those stupid bastard times when I keep reading bloody newspapers whilst he's in the room with me. I've decided it's ALL WRONG." The letter concludes: "I'll go now 'cause I'm bringing myself down thinking what a thoughtless bastard I seem to be... I really feel like crying." Cynthia divorced Lennon in 1968 over his adultery with Yoko Ono. Sotheby's said the letter is expected to fetch up to £17,000 (approx. NIS 95,000). Sotheby's said the seller wanted to remain anonymous but was not Cynthia Lennon. (AP)

Shaquille media blitz continues

Although Shaquille O'Neal has seemed omnipresent and inescapable between his basketball games, his endless stream of commercials for Taco Bell, Reebok and Pepsi, and his other media appearances, it's all just been a warm-up for the newest multimedia Shaq-a-Thon. O'Neal is on movie screens in a cameo in Paramount Pictures' youth comedy *Good Burger*. *Steel*, the second movie with O'Neal in a lead role, recently opened nationwide in the US. The Warner Bros. production features O'Neal in the title role as an armor-clad crime fighter battling bad guys in the 'hood. O'Neal's new single from the film's soundtrack, *Man of Steel*, which finds him rapping along with such stars as Ice Cube, Rakim, B-Real and KRS-One, was also recently released. Reebok and Pepsi commercials featuring O'Neal cross-promoting their products and *Steel* will be seen more frequently. O'Neal is producing a series of specials for MTV, which kicked off with last month's music-oriented *The Shaq Sessions*. He is also hosting another series of specials for Nickelodeon, Sports Theater with Shaquille O'Neal. O'Neal is developing a gritty drama for Fox Television called *Hoops*, about college basketball players. And it's not even the US basketball season yet. (LA Times)

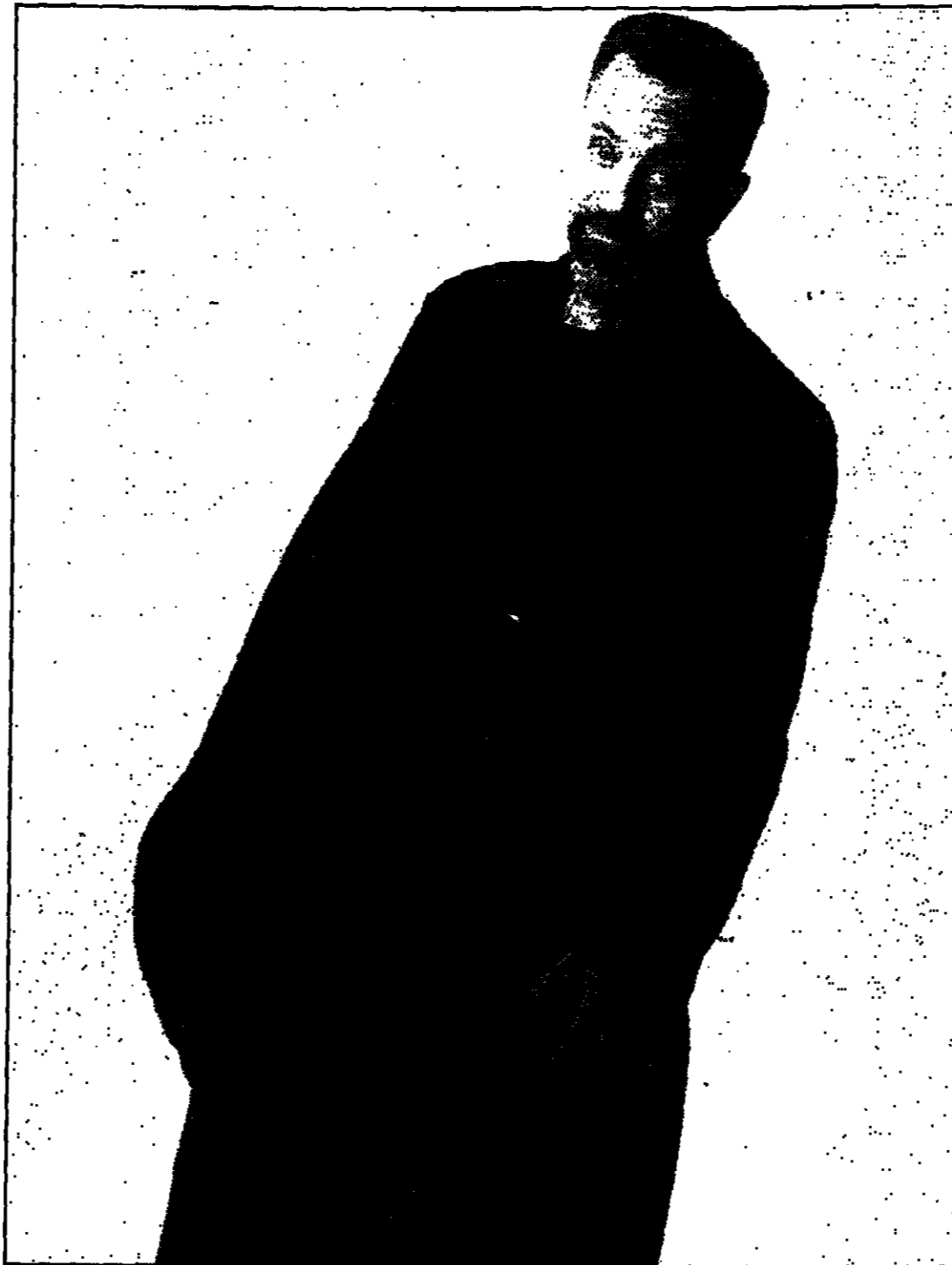
Hollywood honors Kirk Douglas

Kirk Douglas has no new film to push, but he'll still be a guest of honor at the first Hollywood Film Festival. The October 18 event will honor the *Spartacus* and *Lonely Are the Brave* star with his first lifetime achievement award, organizer Carlos de Abreu said. "All through his life, he has overcome adversity," said De Abreu. "He's a symbol of fighting the good fight." Douglas, 80, suffered a minor stroke last year, a few days before he won an honorary Oscar for 50 years of achievement in the film industry. (AP)

Masada: The musical

Composer Shuki Levy can write music to order, but this one "comes from the heart and has taken me three years." This one is *Masada*, the musical, and Levy was in Tel Aviv last week to start the publicity blitz whose first stage will culminate in the launch of the two-disc English-language CD on December 23, which is also the official opening of Israel's Jubilee year. The full musical will have its world premiere at a concert version atop Masada in October '98, and there are ongoing negotiations regarding their participation in the event with superstars such as Liza Minnelli, Charlton Heston and Dustin Hoffman. And if everything goes according to plan, *Masada* will open on Broadway the following year. The musical is a love story set against the mountain's tragic history. A "stunningly beautiful Jewish girl" (but Levy doesn't reveal her name) creeps down the mountain to murder the Roman general, Flavius Silva. The two fall in love and come to respect and understand each other's point of view. Eventually, of course, the girl goes back up the mountain, and the rest is history. Levy has set the musical as a form of flashbacks, which starts with a modern tourist explaining Masada's history to his son, and "ends with a message of hope for the future as children climb the mountain for peace." The native-born Levy, 48, is half of Saban International. The other half is Haim Saban, and together they are the creators of the Power Rangers phenomenon. In fact, Levy is a one-man conglomerate, combining in himself the careers of performer, writer, composer, producer and director. He has, for instance, composed the music for 130 TV shows, including *Dallas*, and *Power Rangers* (of course), produced the movie *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* and produced, written and directed another *Rangers* movie, *Turbo*. And now there's *Masada* and the hope is that "we'll get the kind of response that *Fiddler on the Roof* got," said Levy. "I've been looking for years for a subject that I could write a musical about with all my heart. One night I was watching a documentary on Masada, and I said 'that's it.' The subject, with its emphasis on the passion for freedom, is a natural because it's still pertinent."

IN TUNE



Rumor has it that, in place of his pop career, Billy Joel is to take up classical composing.

End of the road for Billy Joel?

By DAVID BRINN

Very few artists deserve a third volume of greatest hits. Unfortunately, for all his talent and proven track record as the consummate entertainer, Billy Joel is not a member of that list. So despite his being one of the most successful pop singer/songwriters of the past 20 years, his newly released *Greatest Hits Volume III* is like milking a cow on its way out to pasture. That's not to say that the album is without merit, as some of Joel's most honest work came in the '80s and '90s after he had shed his spoiled-brat-from-Long-Island image. Beginning with 1983's *An Innocent Man*, arguably the best album of his career, *Greatest Hits* skims the three or four best songs from each of his albums since, and adds three newly recorded cover versions of songs by Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Gerry Goffin and Carole King. Small pleasures include "Keeping the Faith," "Baby Grand," the duet with Ray Charles "All about Soul" and his last big hit, "The River of Dreams." The rest of the Joel originals barely rate a second listen, much less inclusion on such a collection. Much more impressive are the covers, especially Dylan's "To Make You Feel My Love," which is given an understated treatment and features Joel's affectionate Dylan-like enunciation. If rumors are true that Joel is scrapping his pop career for an attempt at classical composing, then

Greatest Hits could be seen as a summation of a solid artist who showed flashes of brilliance. The piano man has played out his tune.

FEELINGS by David Byrne is not a greatest-hits album, but stylistically it feels like a career retrospective. This is his third solo album since his band, Talking Heads, disbanded in the early 1990s. Never the most mainstream artist with his reedy

- GREATEST HITS VOLUME III Billy Joel (NMC)
- FEELINGS David Byrne (Hed Artzi)
- IN THE MIRROR Yanni (Hed Artzi)

voice, quirky songs, mannerisms and off-kilter lyrics. Byrne seems to take devilish delight in moving farther away from the center to the fringes, even as his commercial viability fades. On *Feelings* (a tongue-in-cheek take-off on the old schmaltzy hit by Morris Albert?), Byrne attempts to balance his experimental side with the need for a hit. The album continues Byrne's fixation with Latin and African rhythms begun in the Heads' heyday. The opening track, "Fuzzy Freaky," could be considered the "Psycho Killer" of the album, recalling the spare early years of Byrne's first foray into weirdness.

"Miss America" contains the most spirited performance and memorable melody with its Brazilian-styled horns leading the attack. And "The Gates of Paradise" is a dead ringer for the straightforward pop of the *Little Creatures* era. There's also a "Life during Wartime" soundalike "Dance on Vaseline" and a playful ballad "Finite-Alright," which contains a lovely string arrangement. However, when Byrne's not able to repeat his past successes, he's being too clever for his own good by cluttering up songs with needless gimmicks which make the material unpalatable. Or maybe he's just trying to conceal the woeful lack of quality songs. In final assessment, Byrne could use a little less intellect and a little more feeling.

YANNI is sort of like George Winston, but with a lot more hair. Both record for the New Age standard bearers Windham Hill, both perform lengthy quasi-classical piano pieces which lead listeners either to bliss or the door. In *The Mirror* spans Yanni's career in the 1980s and early 1990s and includes "Aria" from his highly successful 1994 *Live at the Acropolis* concert. It's a good introduction to the airy, sensitive style that has made Yanni an international star. It is soothing indeed, a sure cure for a rough day at the office. But it's so bland that it makes Winston seem like a flamboyant Elton John kicking his piano seat out.

THEATER REVIEW

An ideal production

By NAOMI DOUDAI

The first act of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, with its drawing-room charade of Edwardian high society, almost always proves to be a killer for Israeli actors. With the most dashing costumes in the world (here Darya Lichovitzky's are all elegance) and the most sumptuous decor (Michaela Lika's marble-pillared salon with its blow-ups of old masters is splendidly suggestive), they are rarely up to anything more compelling than the crudest aping of Anglo-aristocratic mannerisms and manners.

This version of Wilde's classic comedy, directed by Mitko Buzakov, is however a serious exception. Once it gets the initial comical collection of ears, viscounts, lords and their ladies over with, the production begins to exert some of the play's innate grip. Written in 1895, it impresses with a lesson appropriate even for the liberated wives of high-powered husbands of today. The temptations, corrupting short-cuts, and scandal that strew the careers of men of high political ambition are little different now than they were then. Except, of course, that nowadays women are rarely so single-mindedly pure, puritan, naive, and

not often so forgiving as Lady Chiltern. Yuli Harguil, with her chilly English-rose charm, makes a model Lady Chiltern. As her erring husband, Amir Karif gives a deeply dramatic Sir Robert, grave and solemnly moralistic. In contrast, the light-weight Viscount Goring, his closest friend and ultimate redeemer, is played by Alon Ofir with a veneer of elegant nonchalance and charm. He

AN IDEAL HUSBAND by Oscar Wilde Hasifriya Theater Ramat Gan

is appropriately partnered by Michal Brand as the cute, coquettish Mabel, daughter of the house.

In the role of the Earl of Caversham, father of the vacillating viscount, is Ariel Furman in one of the most consummate character studies of his career.

Last but far from least is Michal Tzafir's arch and artful Mrs. Cheveley who, with her villainous schemes, is the catalyst that stirs up the action. As the arch-adventress of the era, she gives a witty and wickedly engaging portrait that lends some glamour and glitz to this so regularly but not always refreshingly revived drama.

CHILDREN'S OPERA REVIEW

Breathing life into puppets

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

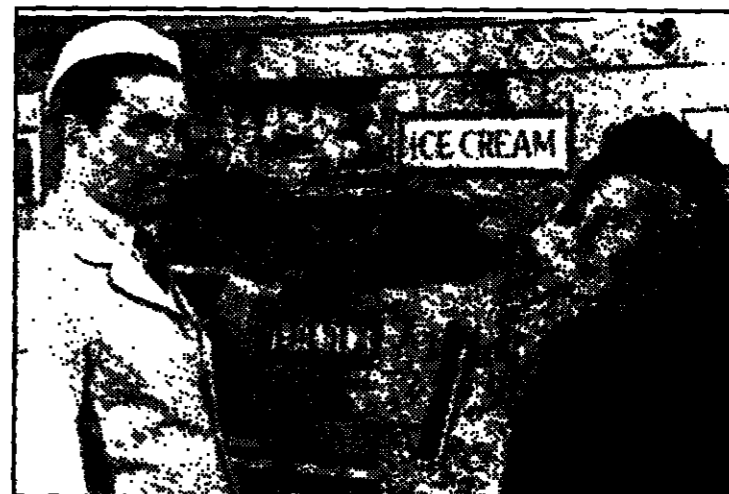
Legend of Life, Nina Vorogel and Leonid Hayt's adaptation of the Cinderella story to a modern song-and-dance world using the music of Avi Benyamini, is a great presentation with one major problem: the show hovers restlessly between the worlds of children and adults, not knowing

LEGEND OF LIFE by Nina Vorogel and Leonid Hayt Sznazanne Della Tel Aviv, August 28

where exactly it wants to land. On the one hand it is a visually striking puppet presentation with actors who breathe real life into the puppets and also occasionally. It is a story full of tempo and gusto, a great show for one and all. But - and this is a big but - the music and the way the story is presented are much more oriented to adults than to youngsters.

Take for example Cinderella's meeting with the fairy godmother who presents her with the dress for the ball. Cinderella has to sign for the dress and leave her phone number as security. And there are other moments in which the story becomes very contemporary. Bottom line: this production of Cinderella is a first-rate presentation which children might find somewhat confusing and adults occasionally simplistic. That said, it is a professional and enjoyable production which young and old alike should rush to see, in spite of its faults.

Lights, camera, nostalgia



Ray Milland falls in love with Jean Arthur in the delightful 1937 comedy 'Easy Living,' one of Channel 2's classic-movie series.

By HELEN KAYE

There's three months of movie bliss ahead for nostalgia buffs, provided you're still up after midnight and/or can put up with the commercials.

A string of romantic comedies lightened people's lives from the darkest days of the Depression to the uneasy "Red Scare" years that succeeded the end of World War II.

You can see 17 of them on Channel 2 once a week, starting September 8 with *Trouble in Paradise* (1932). It's one of five films directed by Ernst Lubitsch and stars a very young Herbert Marshall as a suave confidence trickster. The other films include the immortal Garbo in *Ninotchka* (1939) on November 3 and the 1943 Oscar contender *Heaven Can Wait*, starring Gene Tierney and Don Ameche, which tells the story of a rake who discovers he isn't such a bad guy after all (December 1).

Cukor, the man who directed the mega-hit *My Fair Lady* (1965); the powerhouse quartet of Joan Crawford, Paulette Goddard, Norma Shearer and Rosalind Russell in *The Women*; the classic *The Philadelphia Story* (1940) - yes, the one with Cary Grant, Jimmy Stewart and Katharine Hepburn - and it is on October 20, as well as Cukor's 1933 dazzler *Dinner at Eight*, with Jean Harlow and Marie Dressler (November 10).

Then there's Charles Laughton (who was a wonderfully accomplished comedian) as *Ruggles of Red Gap* (1935) on September 29; Ameche again and Colbert in the 1939 *Midnight* (October 13), the amazing movie they made in 1941 of the Kaufman/Hart *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, (December 8) starring Jimmy Durante, Bette Davis and Monty Woolley as Sheridan Whiteside, and oh, oh, two Tracy/Hepburn films airing December 15 and 22 - *Woman of the Year* (1942) and *Adam's Rib* (1949). Better stock up on popcorn.

Iran calls for more cinemas

Iran's new top official in charge of films called for building a cinema at each city park in the Islamic republic, the Iranian news agency IRNA said on Wednesday. Seifollah Dad, a film director named deputy culture and Islamic guidance minister for cinema and audio-visual affairs, said that "in an era of cultural challenge, one movie theater should be built next to each city park." The remarks reflected the spirit of reform among cultural officials appointed by the administration of new Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, a moderate Shi'ite Moslem cleric who was elected on a platform of social and artistic freedoms. Dad said there were only 270 cinemas with 100,000 seats in the country of 60 million people. He called for raising by at least five-fold the number of visits, which he put at once in every five months for each Iranian, the agency added. Residents said some conservative religious officials, especially in

provinces, discouraged the opening of new cinemas, which they saw as encouraging un-Islamic values. "He [Dad] pointed to certain impediments restricting screening of Iranian films abroad as a problem facing the Iranian cinematographers and said in the contemporary era when Hollywood films have conquered markets in Islamic countries, the issue should be given greater attention," the agency said. Dad was apparently referring to regulations passed earlier this month by former officials restricting international distribution of films after Iranian films were shown at the Jerusalem film festival. State restrictions on film production have been among areas of concern for Iranian artists who widely supported Khatami in presidential elections in May, which he won by a landslide. Besides making several films, Dad has been active as the head of a union of directors and the president of Iran's Film House, an umbrella body of professional

organizations in the cinema industry. Some Iranian films have been well received by international critics. Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami's *The Taste of Cherry* was jointly awarded the Golden Palm best film prize at the Cannes film festival earlier this year. Iran produces some 60 films every year. All films must be approved by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance before they can be produced or screened. Iran banned satellite television dishes in 1995 to fight a Western "cultural invasion." Residents said some of the estimated 250,000 dish owners have put them back on their roofs, often disguised as air conditioners, to watch foreign TV programmes. Few films from the West are shown at theaters, but pirated videos of the latest Hollywood films are available on the black market in Teheran and other large cities. (Reuters)

Hanegbi approves judicial reforms

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Chief Justice Aharon Barak yesterday endorsed a judicial panel's recommendations for reforming the nation's court system.

The report culminated a two-year probe by a six-member committee headed by High Court Justice Theodor Orr, which had been appointed by the former justice minister, David Libai.

The most sweeping reform outlined was to delegate more civil and criminal cases to the magistrate's courts.

Hanegbi said he would show the proposals to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the next few days. He hoped that the Treasury would agree to finance the hiring of 60 more magistrate's court judges as the reforms call for.

The changes would amount to "the most important reform in the legal system since the state was established," Barak said, adding that they would be done gradually and completed by the year 2000.

Barak said that more judges would have been needed even without the proposed reforms. "We have too many files for too few judges," he said.

Orr said that Israelis go to court relatively often compared to other nations.

"The need to go to court in Israel is exceptionally high when compared with other Western countries — and it is growing," Orr said.

He said that taking into account

population growth, there was a 42% increase in cases filed last year as compared to 1982. Judges' case-loads have also doubled in this period, Orr said.

The recommendations call for leaving in place the three tier system of magistrate, district and high courts. But they call for having magistrate's courts handle many types of cases currently handled by the district courts.

The magistrate's courts would wind up handling most civil matters, including financial claims beyond a current NIS 1 million limit. Property claims would also come before magistrates, as well as damage claims.

Criminal cases, except those requiring a three-person bench (such as in instances of murder or rape) would also be heard by the magistrate's courts. Currently the magistrates can hear cases where the maximum sentence involved is seven years.

District courts would serve as courts of appeal for sentences handed down by magistrates, making them the country's main appeals courts.

But they would also hear criminal cases where more than one judge is required to preside. The district courts would also continue to hear civil cases involving taxes, bonds and bankruptcies.

They would also be responsible for precedent-setting cases and class action suits.

The Supreme Court would cease being mainly a court of appeals, an deal mainly with "difficult appeals in which norms have to be set," Barak said.



Speaker in Switzerland

Swiss President Arnold Koller (center) met in Bern yesterday with a Knesset delegation led by Speaker Dan Tichon (second left). It was the first time a Knesset delegation "came to dialogue with our friends in the Swiss parliament," Tichon said, adding that his impression was that the Swiss are trying to make progress on the question of dormant Jewish assets from the Holocaust in the banks. (AP)

WEATHER

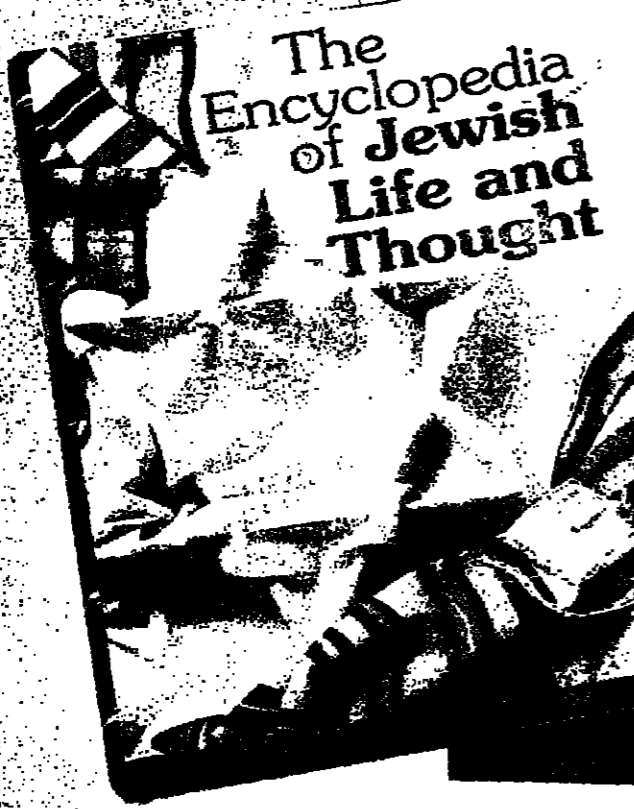
Golan 15-24
Haifa 22-28
Tiberias 21-32
Afula 19-30
Samartha 18-26
Tel Aviv 23-29
Jerusalem 16-25
Beersheba 19-29
Dead Sea 27-35
Eilat 25-35

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Drop in temperatures and unseasonably cool.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	COND.		
	F	C			
Amsterdam	15	59	24	75	cloudy
Berlin	14	57	26	79	clear
Buenos Aires	08	45	14	57	rain
Cardiff	21	70	30	86	partly cloudy
Chicago	13	55	20	68	clear
Frankfurt	18	61	20	68	clear
Geneva	17	63	20	68	partly cloudy
Hong Kong	28	82	31	72	clear
Johannesburg	09	48	20	68	clear
Lisbon	18	64	27	81	clear
London	15	59	22	71	clear
Los Angeles	21	70	31	88	clear
Moscow	14	57	29	84	cloudy
Mumbai	05	41	18	64	partly cloudy
New York	21	70	30	86	partly cloudy
Paris	15	59	28	82	partly cloudy
Rome	17	63	29	84	clear
Sydney	12	54	18	64	cloudy
Tokyo	16	70	20	68	clear
Vienna	15	59	29	84	clear
Zurich	14	57	29	84	partly cloudy

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Winning cards

In yesterday's first daily Chance drawing (286/97), the winning cards were the 10 of spades, the 9 of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the 8 of clubs. In the second drawing (287/97), the winning cards were the 10 of spades, the 8 of hearts, the 7 of diamonds and the queen of clubs.

Bibi to Christians: Make 2000 a year of peace

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi yesterday issued a call for Christian leaders worldwide to declare 2000 a year of no conflicts in the Holy Land, just as the ancient Greeks made the Olympic year one without wars.

Bibi also acknowledged to local church leaders that the recent closure of Bethlehem, which prevented Christian pilgrims from visiting the birthplace of Christ, was a mistake. He said a way should be found to maintain open access to holy sites.

"We have to keep the way to the holy places open. There must not be a closure on Bethlehem," Bibi told the clerics after some complained bitterly about a three-week closure of Bethlehem which was lifted last week.

The local church leaders convened in Bibi's office at a meeting of the ministry's advisory council for planning millennium celebrations.

Metropolitan Cornelius of the Greek Orthodox Church said he knew of people who had saved for 30 or 40 years for a pilgrimage. Then, he said, someone throws a bomb and the authorities declare an emergency.

"You can't tell them to come back in another 30 or 40 years," Cornelius said.

Bibi said he agreed that Bethlehem should be kept open at all times and not be affected by security measures. He said that perhaps the task would require some joint action by Israel and the Palestinians.

Bibi opened the gathering on an optimistic note, expressing hope that by 2000 there would be peace and pilgrims could arrive not only via Israel, Jordan or Egypt, but also by way of Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

He spoke of a need to ready the holy places, to prepare access roads and parking areas, and to keep some of the more popular religious sites open around the clock.

Referring to a need for more hotel accommodations, Bibi said he hoped that if there were peace by 2000, many visitors could stay in army camps which may no longer be needed.

However Bishop Kamal Bathish, who was appointed by the Holy See as coordinator in the Holy Land for the celebrations, said that in the political arena "peace is lacking and almost losing more and more ground in this Holy Land."

Bathish also said pilgrims must be able to visit all of Jerusalem, Nazareth, Jaffa, Bethlehem, Jericho and other parts of the Holy Land. He said the free movement rule should also apply to local Christians, which would mean Palestinians.

Monsignor Richard Mathes, director of Notre Dame, the leading Roman Catholic pilgrim accommodation in Jerusalem, said that if Israel and the Palestinians do not make peace the authorities can forget about any influx of visitors for the celebrations.

"If you make peace, there will be a full house. If you don't make peace, forget it," Mathes said.

Police reshuffle after Bet Sahour riot

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian police commanders have reshuffled senior officers in the Bethlehem area in the wake of a confrontation between police and hundreds of Christians in Bet Sahour who had protested the arrest of several of their co-religionists.

Under the reshuffle, Bethlehem police chief Col. Kamal Alsheik has been transferred to Ramallah. He will be replaced by the Ramallah commander, Col. Fares Alamlah.

The transfer order was signed by Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat and implemented on Sunday in the wake of a petition by hundreds of Bet Sahour residents who had protested Alsheik's behavior during a violent demonstration in early August.

The protest began after an Islamic militant harangued a Christian girl for what he called improper dress and beat up her companion. The companion returned with several friends and pummeled the militant along with two police officers in plainclothes who had accompanied the Moslem.

Reinforcements were called from the Bet Sahour police station and

two Christians were arrested. Hours later, hundreds of Christians stormed the station and police responded by firing in the air.

Eyewitnesses said seven people, including two officers, were hurt by the gunfire.

At that point, Bet Sahour police called for reinforcement and Alsheik arrived from Bethlehem along with members of the Palestinian Preventive Security Apparatus. Bet Sahour Christians said Alsheik cursed them and that night, led by Palestinian Legislative Council member Metri Abu Eita, a petition was sent to Arafat calling for Alsheik's removal from his post.

Palestinian Police Inspector Gen. Ghazi Jabali also switched two other commanders. He sent the commander of the Bet Sahour police, Maj. Badr Nofel, to Bet Jallah and the latter, Maj. Hassan Abu Namus, was informed that he would head the Bet Sahour police.

Bet Sahour dignitaries said they regarded the transfers as the end of the episode. "We see no reason to continue to make an issue out of this," a dignitary, who did not want to be identified, said yesterday. "As far as we're concerned, the chapter is over."

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